



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

HOUSING AND SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, 2nd February 2023

Time: 10:05am to 12:49pm

Venue: Video Conference

PRESENT:

Cr Phillemon Mosby – Mayor
Cr Keith Fell – Chair – Division 4, Mabuiag
Cr Francis Pearson – Division 11, Poruma

STAFF:

Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services
Mr Wayne Green, Executive Director Building Services
Ms May Mosby, Acting Secretariat Officer

APOLOGY

Cr John Levi, Division 7 St Paul's

Agenda

1. Welcome (Chair)

Cr Keith Fell welcomed Mayor Mosby, Councillor Francis Pearson and Executive Staff to the meeting and paid respects to traditional owners on the land we meet today in Cairns and in our respective communities throughout Zenadth Kes.

Two representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Islander Housing, Ms Jacinta McKewen and Ms Toni Ford were also present at the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer

Cr Francis Pearson opened the meeting in prayer at 10:05am

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the dearly departed. May they rest in peace.

3. Apologies

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Paul's due to PNG Nationals' unexpected visit.

Due to time constraints, Cr Fell gave the two representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing an opportunity to provide the Committee with an update of the blue phone process.

Ms Jacinta McKewen, Acting Director for Deliver, ATSI Housing based in Cairns addressed the Committee in detail on the process of the blue phone and the issues tenants are experiencing in the Torres Strait, Thursday Island, NPA and Cape. Jacinta spoke on the information that they currently have and working on collaboratively with SSQ as the Government Call Centre and also with QBuild locally in Cairns around a suite of options and potentially some good solutions that may work. What works in one community does not always work in another.

Cr Fell stated that the two main concerns for us are logistics and timing.

Jacinta advised that she has had meetings with her Executive Director for ATSI Housing, Sharon Kenyan, SSQ leaders and Michelle Catteral from QBuild and a few matters were raised such as:

- What is the scripting that the SSQ Call Centre staff have?
- What is their geographical knowledge and awareness of the locations?

Especially in Torres is the geographical awareness; How we can work with them to understand more both from the customer perspective and also from times when that

maintenance request go from the call centre to QBuild then to Council for the delivery of the work and how that customer is being communicated to.

Further discussions were held on the issues with QBuild maintenance requests and QBuild tendering those requests out to contractors.

Cr Fell thanked Jacinta and Toni for their attendance and participation in today's meeting. Jacinta and Toni left the meeting at 10:43am.

Committee Meeting resumed at 10:56am.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) (Prescribed and Declarable)

No declarations or relevant legal proceedings declarations were made by Councillors.

5. Confirmation of previous minutes – 8th November 2022

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That the Committee notes the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2022 as true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. Action Items List

Executive Director Building Services, Mr Wayne Green updated the Committee with the action item from last meeting.

Discussions took place on the topic of the service audit.

ACTION:

Head of Community Services to organise??

ACTION:

That the Committee put this subject of blue phone process to SARG with a draft scope to recommend to full council.

7. Standing Agenda Item:

Head of Community Services - Housing Authority (verbal)

ACTION:

Secretariat Officer to remove the Standing Agenda of Housing Authority from future Agenda.

11:19am – Manager Environment and Health, Mr Ewan Gunn dialled in to the meeting. Cr Fell welcomed Ewan to the meeting.

Mayor Mosby asked the Chair to look further into what decision was made into this matter as it is not administration or CEO determine this course. It has to go through to full council for a formal resolution.

7a. Community Services Department – Verbal

Head of Community Services, Mr Dawson Sailor provided an update on the following:

Housing Team.

Finalising the recruitment process for Manager Housing with interviews scheduled this week.

Environmental Health

Workshop planned throughout the year for Animal Management.
Successful in the Bio Security grant.

Child Care/Aged care

7b. Youth Program 2023 Grant Applications

Head of Community Services, Mr Dawson Sailor provided the Committee with a verbal update.

7c. Women Program 2023

Head of Community Services Mr Dawson Sailor spoke to the report. This report is to raise awareness of empowering women. The aim of this program is to empower women in our region. The program was planned to be delivered on Badu and Warraber however lack of accommodation availability on Badu and time constraints, the program will be delivered on Warraber.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Francis Pearson; Second: Cr Keith Fell

That the Committee notes the Information on this report

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

7d. Island of Origin Support

Head of Community Services, Mr Dawson Sailor spoke to the report. The intent of the report is to raise awareness of a grant program through Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport and seek feedback from the Committee for financial support for sport related events.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Keith Fell; Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That the Committee notes the Information on this report.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Cr Fell suggested an out of session discussions on this subject.

8. Capital Housing Program

Executive Director Building Services, Mr Wayne Green provided a verbal update on the capital housing program.

Wayne advised they have identified flaws in the previous plugins that's been done with the use of contractors up in the Torres Strait. Wayne is working closely with other funding partners such as Health and QBuild to understand what work that these contractors already have and for us to engage and get them on board, we are not going to get value for money.

QBuild are currently doing a procurement process for \$800m worth of houses and we could partner with them to get better value for money. They have shortlisted 11 major contractors and are currently going through the designs. They have reassured us they will look like residences. Requests from Councillors are for 3-4 bedroom houses. QBuild will have the procurement methodology all sorted by June and would have a better outcome for Council long term. Wayne will keep the Committee up to date.

ACTION:

Executive Director Building Services to touch base with each councillor in the coming weeks on the capital works program.

9. Health Centre and Ferry update (Hammond) – Verbal

Mayor Mosby advised he has not received any feedback to date.

The ferry service is back in operation since school started.

Cr Fell suggested a paper be prepared from the Committee to support Cr Seriako Dorante so he is aware that we have taken action on this matter.

Cr Fell also suggested that this topic be taken out of session to be discussed further.

ACTION:

Head of Community Services to prepare a letter of support for Cr Dorante regarding a Health Centre at Hammond.

10. Animal Management – Verbal – Ewan Gunn, Manager Environment and Health

Cr Fell raised the issues of dogs throughout the region and the concern of Moa Island Community has of horses and invited Ewan to speak more on this subject.

Mr Ewan Gunn spoke at length on the dogs roaming in communities and dog attacks. Ewan advised that most of the Environmental Health Workers are authorised persons under the Local Government Act. Some of his Environmental Health Workers will be undertaking training later in the year in animal management and training with staff that haven't completed a Cert IV in Animal Management.

The horse issues on Moa has been a concern for a number of years.

Cr Fell asked if RSPCA could be involved or maybe look into some sort of cage that could house stray dogs. Ewan stated that are VET visits are every 6 months.

Further discussions took place on the topic. Cr Fell asked if this topic could be taken out of session to discuss further.

11. Alcohol Management – Verbal

Cr Fell brought up a concern of Cr Toby. Cr Fell suggested an out of session catch up on this topic.

12. Regional Fuel update – Verbal

There is no fuel update at this time.

13. Policing and Border Force concerns – Overstayers PNG – Verbal

Cr Fell raised this topic as there are 2 overstayers in his community Border Force has been assisting.

14. Jetty closing update – Verbal

Cr Fell asked that the Committee bring this topic SARG and then to February's meeting.

ACTION:

That the Committee bring raise this topic at February's SARG meeting and then to Council's OM in February.

15. HF Radio & Satellite phones – Verbal

Cr Fell spoke on the importance of HF Radios and Sat phone usage. A concern of the Committee about the process in making sure the SAT phones works. 5 SAT phones in Mabuiag but none of them work when there's a storm.

The Committee would like to see an information report on more communities making sure the SAT phones and HF Radios works for instances of medi vacs to people lost at sea.

12:37pm - Mayor Mosby thanked and commended the Committee and Staff for their ongoing commitment to this portfolio.

16. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Head of Community Services, Mr Dawson Sailor advised that he spoke with the Manager of Governance and Compliance regarding the Terms of Reference for the Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee with having himself and the Executive Director Building Services assign to the Committee.

Cr Fell asked if a report could be prepared for the March Ordinary Meeting for a proposed service audit.

ACTION:

Executive Director Building Services to prepare a service audit report for March Ordinary Meeting.

Further business matters raised:

- Updated Report on Regional Housing in the Torres Strait and include consultation in the region. Support the Housing Officers on ground.
- Prepare a report to full council on the Health Centre on Hammond.
- Report to Council regarding animal management on dogs and horses.

Cr Fell thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in today's meeting.

17. Next meeting date – Thursday, 1st June 2023

18. Closing Prayer

Cr Fell closed the meeting in prayer.

MEETING CLOSED - 12:49PM



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

22/2/2023



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Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date:

22/2/2023