

Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

HOUSING AND SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 20th June 2022

Time: 10:04am to 12:01pm

Venue: Video Conference

PRESENT:

Cr Keith Fell – Chair – Division 4, Mabuiag
Cr John Levi – Division 7, St Paul's
Cr Francis Pearson – Division 11, Poruma

STAFF:

Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services
Ms May Mosby, Acting Secretariat Officer

APOLOGIES:

Nil

1. Welcome (Chair)

Cr Keith Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr John Levi to open the meeting in a word of prayer. Cr Keith Fell also acknowledged our Heavenly father first and foremost and our TO's including ourselves that are sitting in communities and those on the mainland.

2. Opening Prayer

Cr John Levi opened the meeting in a word of prayer at 10:04am.

3. Apologies

Nil

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

No Declarations made.

5. Noting of previous Ratified Minutes – Housing and Safe and Healthy Communities

- 3rd February 2022 (Ratified at February's 2022 Ordinary Meeting)

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr John Levi; Second: Cr Francis Pearson

That the Committee notes the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2022 as true and accurate account of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS

6. Action Items List

Cr Keith Fell spoke on the outstanding action items register and brought up the following:

Lighting situation in Cr Levi's division:

Cr Levi advised that at the budget meeting in Cairns, \$250k was captured for lighting so there is some movement in that space which he is happy about as this is not only a hazard to the horses but also to the general community when they are out and about at night.

Caravans:

Update on the caravans. This was brought up in February. Where that is at? Dawson to provide an update once he comes online.

Cr Fell advised he had a conversation with Dawson previously on how we can get our concerns as a committee up to the full council around important issues that are raised in the committee meetings, concerns such as the lighting issue in all communities more

so, St Paul's because of horses and because of the general public not having enough lighting at night walking around the community.

Cr Fell feels that when matters are raised, they are not put as priority. He has suggested that matters of concerns of priority are raised by the committee be put on paper and present directly to the full council and that he would present as Chair with the Committee's support.

10:10am – Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services joined the meeting.

Dawson advised he is of the same view as what has been discussed to escalate the issues and maintain the importance of those issues.

Housing:

Cr Fell asked about inventory of Housing where all the asbestos and vacant homes, where the Katter leases are in particular at Mer and asked Dawson to follow up. Dawson advised that this was passed on to the Manager Housing at the time back in February however the Manager Housing left in March.

Dawson further stated that in the new financial year one of operational objects for the Housing Team is to fill those vacant properties. Need to map out across the region where those vacant properties are whether they are social or private homes.

ACTION: That the Head of Community Services follow up with the Housing team regarding an inventory of vacant and asbestos homes across the region.

Healthy Lifestyle Officers:

Cr Fell spoke to this topic regarding the Healthy Lifestyle Officers. As at the end of June, the Healthy Lifestyle Officers will go back to working 20 hours a fortnight again which is not helping our communities keeping healthy and active. How do we deal with this moving forward? We need to source funding to keep our HLO's on and the hours they need to be working to keep our communities active and healthy. The programs they run within the school, after school, holiday programs, 4 hours a day is not enough.

Dawson advised the HLO's hours of work are 14 hours a week Monday to Thursday but can spread out their hours which will start again on the 1st of July. Their funding comes from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and NIAA have extended the agreement to another 12 months from July this year to June 2023 next year hence the importance of them running programs on the island to justify more funding for them. Going into the new financial year we will need to look at doing programs differently and how we roll out the programs instead of continually doing the same programs.

Cr Levi suggested options of a set recurrently funded program through TSRA similar to Rangers.

Terms of Reference:

Cr Fell spoke on this topic to look at the important priorities that we discuss in our committee meetings and take those dot points, put on paper and present to full councils. For example, houses which sits in the Terms of Reference, so it feeds from the committee to the executive to full Council.

7. Standing Agenda Item:

Head of Community Services - Housing Authority (verbal)
Mr Dawson Sailor, Head of Community Services spoke to this topic.

8. Native Title – Verbal

Cr Fell spoke to this topic and advised the reason for putting this on the agenda is that Native Title has been identified in our corporate plan of 2020-2025 and will come up in housing moving forward hence the reason for having the Manager Legal Services attend today for his advice on the matter. Native title is creating a barrier for works to go forward with engineering and housing due to native title issues.

Peter advised he contacted John Conroy to talk about the 14-15m social housing project and invite him to attend the committee meeting today but he has extended his apologies as he was flying up to Thursday Island. Peter spoke further on the topic. To alleviate overcrowding extensions or plugins are often used in social houses, they are the easiest ones to get through native title as most of the islands now have their own regional infrastructure ILUA in place, and to comply with the Native Title Act is to issue a final project notice and that's it. There's no avenue to oppose it, however, if we want to build a completely new house this will require a social housing ILUA to negotiate.

Further discussions took place on this topic.

9. Housing (14.3m) – Verbal

Cr Fell enquired as to where we're at with this matter.
Dawson advised that Council will get the funding agreement in June's OM to accept the funding agreement. Initial project planning were underway but consultation with councillors will need to occur again by BSU and Housing team to reconfirm allocations.

10. Katter Leases – Verbal

Cr Keith Fell invited Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services to speak on this topic. Peter advised that, to date, there are 42 entitlements to a Katter lease that are still being processed. The Katter lease program is going to be finalised by June 2023. The reason being that DATSIP trying its best to resolve all outstanding Katter leases. Also with the Katter leases are the home ownership programs. When people get the Katter lease granted, they get the house for free as well but to note, in 5 years' time everybody who has a house will not be able to use a blue phone for maintenance, rather it would be their responsibility.

Further discussions took place on this topic.

ACTION: That the Head of Community Services to create a paper to go for full council with all these key priorities for the July or August OM.

ACTION: That the Head of Community Services to send out action items to Committee to initiate at the next OM.

11. Animal Management – Verbal

Mr Dawson Sailor spoke further on this topic regarding animal management. At the last OM and Council Workshop there were a lot of concerns put across by Councillors regarding dog control issues. Suggestions were put forward by councillors to address the issues. Dawson had a one on one with the Manager of Environment and Health, Mr Ewan Gunn in Cairns following the workshop.

The Environmental Health Workers were in Cairns recently for a workshop on healthy housing projects, looked at waste management. Had some Divisional Engineering Officers attend the workshop. All round productive conversations were had around their roles and responsibilities. Concerns around animal management were raised. Dawson advised that himself and Ewan are to catch up with the Senior Environmental Health Workers this week to unpack some of the plans moving forward about addressing animal management and increasing our visibility in each Division by getting the EHW to work together with the Divisional Manager (DM) and Councillor to have an information session. Horse management were brought up as well as a hot topic.

The two Environmental Health Workers on St Paul's, Stephanie Pabai and Ezra Kris, will put together some information together and have a community information session and provide feedback back to Ewan and Dawson. Dawson and Ewan have also reached out to TSRA for funding in the new year and the CEO's meeting with the Dept of Environment and Science. Ewan will put together a letter outlining the issues with horse management for them to fund a program.

ACTION: Head of Community Services to pursue potential funding for feral horses and provide update to Cr Levi and Committee.

ACTION: Head of Community Services to keep Committee updated on progress of refreshed Animal Management program.

12. Healthy Community (HLO's) – Verbal
Discussed earlier in Agenda Item 6

13. Food Security – Verbal

Cr Keith Fell spoke on this topic regarding food prices. Suggested that we invite CEQ to come and talk to council to talk about food security into the future. Spoken to Fred Gela about this and suggested they do a presentation to council what their mitigations are on keeping the prices down on food.

ACTION: That the committee invite CEQ to present to July Council Ordinary Meeting in relation to food security moving forward.

14. Hammond Health Centre – Verbal

Cr Fell spoke to this topic and asked Manager Legal Services to provide an update on the advice from Cr Seriako Dorante.

Mr Peter Krebs, Manager Legal Services advised that he has not received any response since sending the letter to the Minister. This topic came about after a deputation on Hammond Island last year. A letter was done asking for an IBIS store and Health Centre on Hammond however no response had been received.

ACTION: Manager Legal Services to follow up and provide feedback to Cr Seriako Dorante at the June or July Ordinary Meeting regarding Hammond Health Centre.

Cr Fell asked to keep this matter as a Standing Agenda Item to keep our fingers on the pulse.

ACTION: That Head of Community Services to raise this matter at the Executive Leadership Team meeting.

15. General/ Other Business (on notice)

Cr Keith Fell:

- Propose reconfigure face to face Ordinary meetings for Committee. Face to face for in depth conversations on issues relating to each committee.
- Look at the Terms of Reference. Brainstorming these ideas of how we can move Katter leases forward or support animal management and native title and what the terms of reference would look like. Have that conversation around at next year's budget.
- Push that service audit of the region we really need to identify what's working in those social services areas and why if not working.

Cr John Levi:

- Also raised the Terms of Reference.

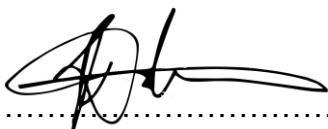
16. Next meeting date

8th September 2022

17. Closing Prayer

Cr Keith Fell thanked the Committee Members and administration staff for their attendance and invited Cr Francis Pearson to close the meeting in a word of prayer

MEETING CLOSED - 12:01PM



Mr James William
Chief Executive Officer
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 19.07.2022



Cr Phillemon Mosby
Mayor
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Date: 19.07.2022