



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 15th July – Wednesday 16th July 2014

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 9.00am – 4.30pm, Wednesday 16th July 9.00am – 3.00pm at the Aka Gin Gin Multi-Purpose Centre, Warraber.

TUESDAY 15th July 2014

- Present:**
- Cr Fred Gela, Mayor
 - Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 - Mabuiag Island
 - Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu Island
 - Cr Joel Gaiden, Division 2 - Dauan Island
 - Cr Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island
 - Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community, Moa Island
 - Cr Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St. Pauls, Moa Island
 - Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 - Hammond
 - Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 - Iama Island
 - Cr Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber Island
 - Cr Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island
 - Cr Fraser Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island
 - Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island
 - Cr Jimmy Gela, Division 14 – Erub Island
 - Cr William Akee, Division 15 – Mer Island
 - Ms Dania Ahwang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - Mr Patrick McGuire, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)
 - Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)
 - Mr Chris McLaughlin, Chief Legal Officer (CLO)
 - Ms Katherine Wiggins, Manager Performance and Advocacy (MPA)
 - Ms Larissa Bani, Divisional Manager, Division 4 Mabuiag (DM)
- Apologies:**
- Cr Horace Baira, Division 5 – Badu Island
 - Mr Anthony Bird, Executive Manager, Corporate Services (EMCS)
 - Mr Gary Pemberton, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Item 1

9.20 am: Meeting opened in prayer by Cr. Fell

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

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

MAYOR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed the Councillors to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land.

Cr Kris, Cr Gaidan and Cr Toby entered the meeting at 9.27am

The Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Chair Sam Tamu welcomed Council.

Cr. W Lui also welcomed Council.

Item 2

Apologies

Cr Horace Baira, Division 5 – Badu Island

Reason: Urgent family business.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Kris, Seconded Cr Sabatino that Council accepts the apology of Cr Horace Baira from today's Ordinary Meeting for 'reasonable excuse'.

All in Favour
Motion Carried

CLO provided clarification on new Councillor Remuneration Procedure and clarified that the "majority", not "all" of Councillors may approve leave of absence.

Item 3

3.3

Action Item Summary – Previous Meeting

Action Item:

CEO to progress Events Coordinator role.

Action Item:

CEO to progress tailored Cultural Training for individual staff.

Cr Mosby enquired about the current procedure in regard to abandoned houses.

Action Item:

CEO & EMCoS to liaise with Councillors in regard to abandoned houses in communities.

Cr. G Lui stated that it would be beneficial to have Councils own housing authority.

Action Item:

CEO, EMCoS and CLO to investigate the establishment of a Council Housing Authority.

Action Item:

CEO and CLO to review current Sea Port fee collection.

Action Item:

CEO to provide advice on LGAQ membership

3.1

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Kris, Seconded Cr Mosby that the minutes of Council held 24th – 25th June 2014 is adopted as true and accurate.

Motion Carried

Item 4

4.1

Boigu Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Toby, seconded Cr J Gela:

A. That pursuant to clause 16 of the Advisory Committee – Boigu Island Terms of Reference, Council accept the resignation of Mr Dennis Gibuma as voting member of the Advisory Committee – Boigu Island, effective immediately.

Motion Carried

4.2 **Boigu Crab Farm Divestment**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Toby, seconded Cr Enosa:

That Council resolve to place on the Divestment List and advertise for Expression of Interest for lease, the Crab Farm Complex on Boigu Island.

Motion Carried

4.3 **Boigu Development**

Left on Table. Further discussions required on boundary lines.

It was noted that Council break for Morning Tea 10.23am – 10.47am

Item 5 **Insurance Renewal Report**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr W Lui, seconded Cr Fell:

That Council extend for a further period of two (2) years, Tender TSIRC2012-03 Brief for Insurance and Risk Management Services to AON Risk Services Australia Limited, in accordance with the terms and conditions of that document.

Motion Carried

Item 7 **Community Grants Request – Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation (late report)**

Cr G Lui declared his Material Personal Interest as a Director of Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation and left the room at 10.59am.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Kris, Seconded Cr W Lui:

That Council agree to provide Community Grants support to the amount of \$6,252 in accordance with the Community Grants policy, to Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation. Funding is to be provided on receipt of valid tax invoice from Iama Mura Mabaigal TSI Corporation and grant monies are to be fully acquitted within twelve months of disbursement on the approved acquittal form in accordance with Council's Community Grants Policy.

Motion Carried

Item 11 **General Business**

Cr Fell requested letter to be sent to Mayor Pedro Stephen Torres Shire to clarify the use of the old airport waiting area.

Action Item:

CEO to coordinate letter to be sent to Torres Shire regarding use of old airport waiting area for families who have passed.

Action Item:

CEO and EMES to review Seawall start and completion dates.

Action Item:

MPA follow up on response regarding FinFish committee.

Action Item:

CLO to take on notice Seaswift insurance.

Action Item:

CEO and MPA to follow up QPS presence, challenges, communications and partnership with communities with invitation to Council Meeting and request for incidents statistics.

Action Item:

MPA to clarify date of next QPS regional forum and advise councillors.

Action Item:

CEO and MPA to follow up on improving mobile coverage, with investigation of internal funding possibilities if necessary.

Action Item:

EMES to follow up with TMR on repair of Saibai berthing dolphins.

EMES to provide report to October's Council Meeting on repair of Saibai berthing dolphins.

CEO and CLO to investigate damage to berthing dolphins through over use of Seaswift vessels.

Action Item:

CEO and MPA to investigate funding opportunities for finger wharf for Mabuiag and Mer.

Action Item:

CEO, EMES and MPA to provide costings and concept plans on Ugar helicopter lighting by 1st August.

Action Item:

EMES to provide update on Erub and Mabuiag rubbish tip plus liaise with officials on suitable dates for visits.

Action Item:

For CEO and EMCS to ensure new HR Manager develops process for Performance Appraisals for all staff and exit interviews.

EMCoS and EMCS to ensure appropriate staff have access to photographic technology and uploading.

It was noted that Council break for Lunch 12.10pm – 1.23pm

Cont.

General Business

Action Item:

CEO to provide update on loan application.

Action Item:

EMES to prioritise update to Cr Lui on drainage.

Cr Mosby, Bosun, Stephen entered the room at 1.35pm

Cr Fell presented request from Frances Whap for Councillors to fund her attendance at a tournament in Fiji.

Councillors, excluding Hammond and Kubin, agreed to provide \$107 each (\$109 from Cr. F Gela) to support Frances Whap to attend International Bayley's Fiji Coral Coast Rugby Seven's tournament – 12th -19th November 2014.

Action Item:

MPA to investigate communicating possible grants, that Council is ineligible for, but that could be utilised by local entities, to Councillors.

Action Item:

CEO and EMCS investigate costs and benefits for providing additional staff with Microsoft project to enhance project management practices.

Action Item:

CEO to provide information to Councillors on remuneration and taxation.

Action Item:

CEO and CLO to provide information report on video and teleconferencing to attend Council Meetings.

It was noted that Council break for Afternoon Tea 2.57pm – 3.30pm

CLOSED BUSINESS

Item 11 **3.00 – 3.34pm Closed Business**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Gaidan, Seconded Cr Enosa that in accordance with s275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss s275

- (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees; or
- (b) industrial matters affecting employees; or
- (c) the local government's budget; or
- (d) rating concessions; or
- (e) contracts proposed to be made by it; or
- (f) starting or defending legal proceedings involving the local government; or
- (g) any action to be taken by the local government under the Planning Act, including deciding applications made to it under that Act; or
- (h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

Further the public in attendance were asked to leave.

Regional Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Update

CLO provided an update on the regional ILUA.

Action Item:

CLO to provide written Regional ILUA update for community members.

Action Item:

Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CEO and CLO to attend a community meeting on Boigu and Saibai to provide update on Regional ILUA.

Action Item:

MPA and CLO to provide correspondence to Department Housing and Public Works on Councils position to ILUA.

4.25pm staff were asked to leave the meeting.

4.55pm staff returned to the meeting.

Item 12 **RIBS Divestment (Late report) Left on Table**

Meeting Closed for Day 1

4.57pm Meeting closed in prayer by Cr Fell

Wednesday 16th July 2014

Present: Cr Fred Gela, Mayor
Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 - Mabuiag Island
Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu Island
Cr Joel Gaiden, Division 2 - Dauan Island
Cr Ron Enosa, Division 3 – Saibai Island
Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community, Moa Island
Cr Toshie Kris, Division 7 – St. Pauls, Moa Island
Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8- Hammond
Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 - Iama Island
Cr Willie Lui, Division 10 - Warraber Island
Cr Phillemon Mosby, Division 11 – Poruma Island
Cr Fraser Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island
Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island
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Ms Larissa Bani, Divisional Manager, Division 4 Mabuiag (DM)

Apologies: Cr Horace Baira, Division 5 – Badu Island
Mr Anthony Bird, Executive Manager, Corporate Services (EMCS)
Mr Gary Pemberton, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Item 9 **Opening Prayer**

9.11am Meeting opened in prayer by Cr Gaidan

Item 10 **Presentation - Torres Strait Fisheries Association**

9.19am Cr Fell entered the room.

- TSFA – Established in 2013.
- Formed by TRL fisherman within the Kaiwalagal region.
- Incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1981 (State)
- Keen to partner further with TSIRC
- Will be lobbying federal government to further enhance the local fishing industry in the Torres Strait
- TSRA are developing a roadmap for the ownership, management and control of fishing in the Torres Strait. This is available on the TSRA website for comment.
- Stated that it was vital that local TS fisheries significantly increase quotas in the region. Significant monies are being lost from Torres Strait Communities due to holding a small percentage at the quotas.
- Contact Details: tsfisheries@hotmail.com
- Thanked TSIRC and reiterated the importance of creating a sustainable and productive local fishing industry to support the local economy.

Cr W Lui thanked Seriako for the presentation and stated that there are already regional fishery plan and it was vital that the TSFA collaborated with their further development.

Cr G Lui also thanked Seriako for the presentation and stated that discussions on improving the fishing industry had occurred for many years and it was now vital to start achieving outcomes for the benefit of communities.

Cr Stephen also thanked Seriako for the presentation and stated that it was important for representatives from each community was represented and have a voice.

It was noted that Council break for Morning Tea 10.28am – 11.03am

Item 6 **Business Arising from Information Reports**

Cr Toby queried progress with recent IBIS discussions.

Action Item:

CLO to follow-up on IBIS discussions

Item 11 **Development Applications – Late Report – Nil Report, resolved at June’s meeting**

Item 12 **General Business**

Cr Toby requested update on the following

- A review of temporary accommodation needed
- Abandoned houses
- Old Tuckshop
- Uniforms

Action Item:

CEO to review Boigu temporary accommodation needs and possible funding.

Cr J Gela requested update on Erub vehicles.

Action Item:

CEO to keep Cr Gela updated on Fuel Bowser.

Cr Bosun requested update on the following.

- Kubin Guest house
- Art Centre divestment

Action Item:

Cr Akee requested update on Mer Airport Waiting Shed.

Action Item:

CFO to follow-up on Kubin guest house refurbishment.

Action Item:

CEO to follow-up on Councillors vehicle.

Cr G Lui requested update on the following:

- Blue Phones
- Boat Sale

Action Item:

CEO and EMES to review employees/contractors using own private vehicles for work purposes.

Item 13 **Apologies for next meeting.**

Cr W Lui requested leave from August meeting due to community celebrations on the 22nd and 23rd.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Enosa, Seconded Cr Mosby that pursuant to the Councillor Remuneration procedure, Council resolve to approve leave to Cr W Lui for August Ordinary Meeting.

Motion Carried

11.59am Council Meeting closed in prayer by Cr Fell