



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING

Tuesday 21 March 2017 and Wednesday 22 March 2017

Please find attached Minutes of the above meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2017 from 8:52am to 4:30pm and Wednesday 22 March 2017 from 8:59am to 3:52pm
TSIRC Community Hall, Kirriri

Tuesday 21 March 2017

Present

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island

Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan Island

Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)

Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Mr John Coyle, Executive Manager Housing Services (EMHS)

Ms Margaret Rosta, Senior Executive Assistant (SEA)

Apologies

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island

1. **8:52 am - am** **Opening Prayer by Cr Levi and Welcome**

Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Gela acknowledged Elder Gordon Hammond and the Kaurareg Tribal Council of Elders, elders past and present and the Traditional Owners as well as staff present.

Cr Sabatino acknowledged Traditional Owners past and present and welcomed Councillors and staff to Hammond Island and discussed general housekeeping.

2. **8:55am-9:00am** **Apologies**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Nai, Second Cr Sabatino -

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu be granted approved leave for this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED – 4 against Cr Fell, Cr Bosun, Cr Levi and Cr Pearson

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Sabatino, Second Cr Stephen

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island be granted approved leave for this meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. **9:00am-9:01am** **Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) or Material Personal Interest (MPI)**

Cr Sabatino declared his Material Personal Interest for the Closed Business – Item 13.2

Mayor Gela advised councillors to make a disclosure throughout the meeting if applicable to the agenda item.

4. **9:01am-9:12am** **Confirmation of February 2017 Ordinary Meeting Minutes**

The following amendments be made to the February 2017 Ordinary Meeting:-

- Page 10 - 9.2 should read - Include in the submission a 2% increase to all Councillor remuneration including Mayor and Deputy Mayor as per Remuneration Tribunal's decision made in December 2016 to commence 1 July 2017.
- Page 10 - Typo in the Remuneration resolution – should be 2% increase from 1 July 2017.
- Page 11 – no need to advise who blessed the morning tea in meeting minutes
- Page 12 – Need to state Ordinary Meeting it closed before opening the meeting as a Trustee
- Page 15 – 14.2 – should read – Cr Getano Lui Jnr declared COI as Priest of the Church of the Torres Strait and was permitted to vote under COI.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Pearson, Seconded Cr Thaiday

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in February 2017 (as amended) be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting taking into account the above amendments.

MOTION CARRIED

5. **9:12am-9:31am** **Confirmation of Special Meeting Minutes held 9 March 2017**

The following amendments be made to the minutes of Special Meeting dated 9 March 2017:-

- Cr Sabatino was not in attendance due to his Material Personal Interest (MPI) and therefore did not vote.
- Resolution 2 – Cr Nona seconded (not Cr Stephen)

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Fell, Second Cr Nai

That the minutes of the Special meeting held on the 9 March 2017 (as amended) be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

9:27am Breakfast was served. Councillors were asked to get their breakfast and bring back to the table.

6. 9:31am-9:51am Outstanding Strategic Ordinary Meeting Action Items

Previous actions discussed and further actions added.

ACTION

ACEO – Distribute Cabinet Works Feasibility Study to all Councillors ahead of the April Ordinary Meeting.

ACTION

EMES – Disaster Management training needs to occur in communities with relevant Councillors, DM's and DEO's.

7. 9:51am-10:26 am Housing Services – 10% Rental Discount Policy

EMHS spoke to this report. The purpose of this report was to seek Council's endorsement/ratification on the proposal to discontinue the application of the 10% discount policy for new tenancies or defaulting tenants, taking into consideration Council's compliance risk and the lack of improvement this policy has had on rental collections for social housing.

ACEO explains the tangible effect of the resolution would be that from tomorrow after this resolution, no new tenants will attract the 10% discount. All existing tenants will still get a 10% deduction until their tenancy finishes or they default on their automatic payments. There was much discussion regarding the how Council would engage with tenants to communicate the 10% discount some tenants in the future may or may not get.

After much discussion and concerns raised, it was decided to leave this motion laying on the table until more information could be provided to the April Ordinary Meeting regarding implication and resources required by the Housing Department, to implement discontinuance consistently across all tenants immediately.

RESOLUTION

No mover -

That Council resolve to:

- 1. Cease applying the 10% rental discount policy to all new General Tenancy Agreements entered into by Council from the date of this resolution, subject to 1 month's prior notice of cessation: and**
- 2. Continue applying the 10% to all existing General Tenancy Agreements, where rent is being paid via automatic deduction existing as at the date of this resolution, and where rent payments are up to date (not in default), subject to 1 months prior notice of cessation. ****

NOTATION: ****To avoid doubt, all General Tenancy Agreements, where rent is being paid otherwise via automatic deduction existing as at the date of this resolution (whether up to date or not), or via existing automatic deduction which is in default (i.e. revoked by the tenant etc.), will no longer attract the 10% discount**

MOTION LEFT LAYING ON THE TABLE

REASONS FOR NOT FOLLOWING SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE RECOMMENDATION:

Council considered that absolute discontinuance of the 10% discount policy across all tenants (new and existing) immediately (with limited transition) would be of greatest benefit to Council's financial position and that Management should show what challenges would be faced via resourcing to effect this.

ACTION

EMHS – Provide report to April Ordinary Meeting on what resources may be required to achieve removal of 10% discount to all tenants – phase in plan to be included.

8. 10:26am-10:30am Capital Threshold Limit

AEMCS spoke to this report. The Council's asset capitalisation thresholds are considered low considering that additional cost associated in commissioning new assets within the geographical region of the Torres Straits and recommend that Council review the thresholds with a view to increasing them from \$5,000 for plant & equipment to \$10,000 and from \$5,000 for all other assets to \$10,000. No change in \$1 land thresholds.

An increase to the threshold will not impact on repairs and maintenance expenditure or cash flows for Council. There is a low risk of any implications to the provision of Council services as all required expenditure will still be incurred regardless of the asset capitalisation threshold.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Fell; Seconded Cr Bosun

That pursuant to section 206 (2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld), Council resolve to amend Council's Asset Capitalisation thresholds to \$10,000 for plant and equipment and \$10,000 for all other assets, with the exception of land that remains at \$1.

MOTION CARRIED

10:30am – 11:00am Morning Tea

11:00am-11:03am EMES introduced Public Health unit staff to Council.

9. 11:03am-11:07am Complaints Policy

AEMCS spoke to this report. The purpose of the report was to propose a new Complaint Management Policy for adoption by Council and update Council on the review of the Complaint Management Procedure. The Complaint Management Process Procedure required review to reflect legislative changes and update internal processes, to ensure best practice complaint management. The Procedure has been renamed the Complaint Management Procedure. The Policy and Procedure were drafted/reviewed to align with the model administrative action complaints policy and procedures for Aboriginal Shire Councils as recommended by the Queensland Ombudsman.

The Procedure cannot be approved by executive management until the Complaint Management Policy (the new Head of Power) receives Council endorsement. The changes make the complaints process in Torres Strait Island Regional Council more transparent.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Sabatino, Seconded Cr Tamu

That Council adopt the Complaint Management Policy (SPO 9) as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

10. 11:07am-11:14am Badu Transfer Lease – Surrender of Lot 141

AEMCS spoke to his report. The Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC legal representative Bottoms English Lawyers, contacted Council by email on 11 January 2017 requesting that Council surrender Lot 141 on SP274784 to the Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC. Lot 141 on SP274784 does not have any Council assets on it and is not used by Council. Wakaid Coral Sea Company Pty Ltd support for Council surrendering Lot 141 so that they can enter a lease with Mura Badulgal was confirmed in an email by Hannay Law on 6 March 2017.

Cr Nona had expressed consent to this proposal at the February 2017 Ordinary Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Levi, Seconded Cr Pearson

That Council resolve to surrender its lease over part of Lot 2 on SP253545 in lease instrument dealing number 715599235, title reference 5039799, described now as Lot 141 on SP274784 being an area of 140m2 on Badu Island, to the Mura Badulgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC.

MOTION CARRIED

11. 11:14am-11:15am Mer RIBS/BRACS Facility – Surrender of Lot 347

AEMCS spoke to his report. Due to Councillor Kaigey, Mer, being unable to attend this meeting, this report seeking resolution to surrender of Lot 347 on Mer Island to be presented to the April Ordinary Meeting.

RESOLUTION

No mover

That Council resolve to surrender its lease over the whole of Lot 347 on SP249793 on title reference 50901314, to the Mer Gedkem Le (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC.

MOTION left laying on the table

12. 11:15am-11:29am Remuneration Procedure

ACEO spoke to this report. The purpose of the report was to amend changes made to the proposed amended Procedure since the February Ordinary Meeting are as follows:

1. the inclusion of “absence due to second employment (this Reasonable Excuse can be used by a Councillor no more than twice in a calendar year)” in clause 3.1 at letter (e);
2. confirmation in clause 4(d) that the Base Salary component is paid to Councillors on every second Monday;
3. the inclusion of rules about when the Meeting Fee component is to be paid. There are two options:
 - a. **Option 1** is to pay the Meeting Fee on the first Friday of each calendar month with respect of the previous calendar month, subject to the attendance rule being met; **OR**
 - b. **Option 2** is to pay the Meeting Fee on the third Friday of each month with respect of the same calendar month, but if the Councillor does not meet the attendance rule for that month, then the following month’s Meeting Fee would not be paid to the Councillor.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Nai, Seconded, Cr Elisala

That Council adopt the revised Councillor Remuneration Procedure (PR-PO4-8), as follows:

1. The inclusion of “absence due to second employment (this Reasonable Excuse can be used by a Councillor no more than twice in a calendar year)” in clause 3.1 at letter (e);
2. Confirmation in clause 4(d) that the Base Salary component is paid to Councillors on every second Monday.
3. The inclusion of rules about when the Meeting Fee component is to be paid. Council decided on Option 2 - to pay the Meeting Fee on the third Friday of each month with respect of the same calendar month, but if the Councillor does not meet the attendance rule for that month, then the following month’s Meeting Fee would not be paid to the Councillor.

MOTION CARRIED

13. **11:29-11:30am** **Close Business**

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Elisala, Second Cr Nai

That in accordance with s275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss:

(e) Contracts proposed to be made by it; or

(h) Other business for which 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.

MOTION CARRIED

11: 30 am – 11:45am

Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI) or Material Personal Interest (MPI)

- **Cr Thaiday declared a conflict of interest (COI)**
 - COI details: Cr Thaiday noted he is the Councillor for Erub Island and community member.
 - How the Council proposed for Cr Thaiday to deal with the COI: Cr Thaiday will not vote but can remain in the room and will refrain from discussion – unless Council ask for guidance and queries.
- **Mayor Gela declared a material personal interest (COI)**
 - How the Council proposed to Mayor Gela to deal with the COI: Granted voting rights and to take part in all discussions. Mayor Gela will in no way gain financially from any decision.
- **Cr Lui declared a around potential Conflict of Interest (COI) on this matter**
 - How the Council proposed to deal with the potential COI: Councillor Lui will not gain from any decisions made and Council decided he should still participate and vote –Councillors asked for a show of hands on Cr Lui to have voting rights – 7 show of hands in support – Cr Lui has voting rights.
- **Cr Stephen declared potential Conflict of Interest (COI)**
 - How the Council proposed to Cr Stephen to deal with his potential COI: After discussion, Council could not see any COI and Cr Stephen granted full voting rights.
- **Cr Sabatino declared a Material Personal Interest:**
 - MPI details: Cr Sabatino has family connections with the Debt Write-off resolution.
 - How the Council proposed for Cr Sabatino to deal with his MPI - Cr Sabatino to leave the room and do not vote.

13.1 11:45am - 12:41 pm Erub Landfill – LATE REPORT

13.2 12:41pm - 12:44pm Debt Write-off – Councillor Sabatino left the room.

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|------|-------------------|--|
| 13.3 | 12:44pm - 12:45pm | Audit Fees |
| 13.4 | 12:45pm - 12:47pm | Enterprise Divestment – St Pauls Mechanical Workshop |
| 13.5 | 12:47pm - 12:58pm | CEO Recruitment |

12:58am Out of Closed Business

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Bosun; Second Cr Nai

That Council move out of closed business.

MOTION CARRIED

- 13.1 12:58am -1:03pm Erub Landfill – LATE REPORT – Cr Thaiday left the room

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Fell, Second Cr Nai - Cr Bosun against - Cr Thaiday leaves the room and did not vote

That council resolve to authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer to negotiate future act validation under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* via confidential Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the current Erub Island landfill site, provided within existing budget 16/17 or 17/18 (whichever may apply)and that such expenditure is within the Acting Chief Executive Officer’s financial delegation.

MOTION CARRIED

- 13.2 1:03pm - 1:06pm Debt Write-off – Cr Sabatino left the room.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Elisala, Second Cr Akiba

That Council endorse write-off of \$11,700 of commercial debt as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

- 13.3 1:06pm – 1:07pm Audit Fees

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Pearson, Second Cr Tamu

That Council resolve to authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract to provide external audit services from the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), including making payment for all services.

MOTION CARRIED

- 13.4 1:07pm – 1:08pm Enterprise Divestment – St Pauls Mechanical Workshop

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Sabatino, Second Cr Levi

- 1. That in accordance with sections 227, 228 and 236 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*, Council enter into negotiations with the following entities (or related parties) with a view to those entities acquiring the following businesses and associated valuable non-current assets and staff on terms acceptable to the Acting Chief Executive Officer of**

Council, and recommend to the Trustee, the grant of trustee leases to each entity over relevant land as presented:

Community	Enterprise	Entity
St Pauls	Mechanic Workshop	Fred Erra Wapau

2. For each enterprise, the divestment negotiation period shall not exceed six (6) months from when Council first submits divestment documents to the approved entity for consideration. If divestment is not executed within six (6) months, Council shall be at liberty to withdraw the offer to divest.

MOTION CARRIED

1:08pm – 1:56pm - Lunch

1: 56 pm – Closed Business

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Pearson, Second Cr Elisala

That in accordance with s275 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is resolved for the meeting to go into closed session to discuss:

(e) Contracts proposed to be made by it; or

(h) Other business for which 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.

MOTION CARRIED

13.5 1:57pm - 2:22pm Industrial Award Update – LATE REPORT (Locality Allowance)

2:22pm

Out of Closed Business

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Nai, Second Cr Sabatino

That Council move out of closed business.

13.5 2:23 pm – 2:24pm Industrial Update – LATE REPORT

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Fell, Second Cr Tamu

That Council support the reintroduction of Locality Allowance and lobby for application to all staff (except common law contract staff) effective 1 July 2017, provided financial support is forthcoming from the State Government to fund the increase in whole, and instruct LGAQ to seek transition over a period of no less than 4 years.

MOTION CARRIED

14. 2:24pm – 3:20pm Budget and Operational Plan

EMFS spoke to the Budget and Operational Plan presentation explaining each Departmental Budget Overview and then each Departmental Operational Plan Projects for 2017-2018.

ACEO advised that the Budget and Operational Plan slides have been provided to all Councillors via email for their perusal at any time up to the June Budget Ordinary Meeting. Any questions can be put to the ACEO or each Executive at any time.

Cr Gela advised of the history regarding the childcare centres and about child care operations. Resolution was passed 2013/2014 by council to proceed with the Hammond Island Child Care centre, but because the money was not used in an operating budget of that year and was not rolled over the following year, it was not accounted for going forward. \$150,000 has been budgeted for, to be used as operating budget to get the Hammond Island child care centre opened. Mayor Gela advised that the centre has to operate for 6 months till the Federal government takes over funding.

ACTION

Consider utilisation of budget surplus in 16/17 to partly fund opening of the Hammond Island Childcare Centre to attract Federal CCB payments within 6 months.

3:20 pm – 3:35pm Afternoon Tea

3:36pm – 4:05pm

Budget and Operational Plan cont.

EMFS gave an overview of the Council's revenue sources, followed by the decline in Operational Grants obtained by Council over the last 8 Financial Years.

Mayor advised all Councillors if there was anything else they need to understand with regards to budget of their finances or the Operational Plan projects, to contact the Executive.

4:05pm – 4:08pm

Community Cabinet held in Cairns

Mayor Gela advised of the Community Cabinet he attended in Cairns on 13 March 2017. All Queensland Ministers were present. Each councillor will be given a copy of the deputations that were presented at the Cabinet. Mayor Gela advised he wanted to take down some of the councillors with him but the Cabinet was done differently this time. Only Mayors were invited. Key critical discussions were around waste management as we have been given a compliance notice.

15. 4:08pm - 4:30pm

Business Arising from Information Reports

NIL.

4:30pm

Meeting Close

Wednesday 22 March 2017

Present

Cr Fred Gela, Mayor

Cr Keith Fell, Deputy Mayor, Division 4 – Mabuiag Island

Cr Torenzo Elisala, Division 2 – Dauan Island

Cr Keri Akiba, Division 3 – Saibai Island

Cr David Bosun, Division 6 – Kubin Community at Moa Island

Cr John Levi, Division 7 – St Pauls Community at Moa Island

Cr Mario Sabatino, Division 8 – Kirriri Island

Cr Getano Lui Jnr, Division 9 – Iama Island

Cr Francis Pearson, Division 11 – Poruma Island

Cr Rocky Stephen, Division 13 – Ugar Island

Cr Patrick Thaiday, Division 14 – Erub Island

Mr Chris McLaughlin, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO)

Mr Rob Dwyer, Acting Executive Manager Corporate Services (AEMCS)

Ms Melissa Barmettler, Executive Manager Financial Services (EMFS)

Mr David Baldwin, Executive Manager Engineering Services (EMES)

Mr David Abednego, Executive Manager Community Services (EMCoS)

Mr John Coyle, Executive Manager Housing Services (EMHS)

Ms Margaret Rosta, Senior Executive Assistant (SEA)

Apologies

Cr Dimas Toby, Division 1 – Boigu

Cr Laurie Nona, Division 5 – Badu Island

Cr Clara Tamu, Division 10 – Warraber Island

Cr Bob Kaigey, Division 15 – Mer Island

Cr Ted Nai, Division 12 – Masig Island

16. 8:59am – 9:00am Opening Prayer and Welcome

Mayor's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mayor Gela acknowledged Elder Gordon Hammond and the Kaurareg Tribal Council of Elders, elders past and present and the Traditional Owners as well as staff present. Mayor Gela welcomed Councillors and staff to the second day of meetings.

Apologies for Cr Toby, Cr Nona, Cr Tamu, Cr Kaigey and Cr Nai

17. 9:00am - 10:30am PRESENTATION: **Chairperson, Alan MacSporran, CEO, Forbes Smith, Principle Advisor Prevention, David Honeyman and Elsja Dewis, ATSI Advisor. Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) QLD. – Introduction about the CCC and propose dates for the CCC to visit communities.** Elsja Dewis introduced everyone present and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land in which we meet.

Alan MacSporran suggested Council invited the Chief Magistrate to address council. Mayor Gela advised an invitation has already been sent but he has not accepted.

ACTION

SEA to draft a letter to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), Attorney General and Chief Magistrate regarding lenient sentencing of people found guilty of crimes.

ACTION

SEA to send thank you letter to CCC.

ACTION

SEA to provide postal details to CCC to facilitate brochures to be sent out.

10:30am to 11:07am - Morning Tea

18. 11:07am – 12:37pm PRESENTATION: **Ms Leilani Bin- Juda**, Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Officer, together with representatives from, ABF and Qld Health – **Update Council on recent outcomes from bilateral meetings and 2017 Ministerial Forum; coordinated processing for the Treaty traditional visits permit system; seek views from Council on issues/challenges/areas of improvement for Treaty Management.**

ACTION

SEA - Invite Queensland Health to undertake information sessions in community on Tuberculosis Control.

ACTION

SEA to send out thank you letter.

12:37pm – 1:37pm Lunch

19. 1:47pm – 2:40pm **Queensland Productivity Commission Enquiry into Services in remote indigenous Communities - Clare Richards and Bianca Barling-Seden**

Clare Richards and Bianca Barling-Seden presented the final draft of the new Engagement Framework plus Strategy documents to Council. Council is required to develop and review a Community Engagement Policy under the Local Government Act 2009. Engagement and consultation are also requirements under a range of other State and Federal legislation and funding

agreements. The Framework has been developed so that employees can operationalise Councils vision in their planning and day to day activities.

This document will now go to print to be distributed. It will also be available on the TSIRC website. Mayor Gela thanked the Engagement Team for the work put into this document.

22. 2:40pm – 2:44pm Leave In Advance requested for the April Ordinary Meeting

- Cr Bosun
- Cr Kaigey (Business) via Cr Fell as proxy
- Cr Nai via Cr Levi as proxy
- Cr Stephen

2:44pm – 2:47pm Next Meeting

19/20 April 2017 was scheduled to be held on Dauan Island. Due to accommodation issues it was decided to hold the April Ordinary Meeting and SARG via videoconference.

20. 2:47pm – 3:52pm General Business

Questions were asked regarding the current survey asking all community members and stakeholders to take part in the TSIRC study to improve services across the region. So far we have a 53% completion rate. This includes a remote community completion rate of 15% which equates to 376 adults. There was discussion on ways to increase participation. Currently we are offering prizes to participants. This is still a reasonable sample with statistical integrity.

ACTION

ACEO - Information report to be presented to April Ordinary Meeting regarding Audit issues.

Cr Fell spoke raised serious concerns of confidentiality around closed business. Mayor Gela stressed to all present that all business discussed in closed business is highly confidential and must remain so. When Council comes out of closed business, all resolutions and any other discussion out of closed business is public record.

Cr Lui asked what was happening in the Renewable Energy area. Cr Gela advised that Minister Michael de Brenni is keen on renewable energy. Mayor Gela did not want to end up with the same situation as we have currently on Mer Island in council houses, where if there is no sun the battery bank kicks in but if no battery charge the diesel engines start. If Council is looking at using renewable energy we should look at the Tesla battery which can store electricity from either the grid or a renewable energy source like solar.

ACTION

EMHS/EMES to consider renewable energy options in construction and planning.

ACTION

ACEO (EO) to enquire if we can provide alternatives for the times IBIS are closed whilst considering power card transition to IBIS?

ACTION

ACEO (EO) to request Centrelink readvertised EOI again in all communities.

ACTION

ACEO (EO) investigates cleaner issue at lama. Motel not being cleaned and other staff are being forced to clean (e.g. DM)

ACTION

EMoCS/EMHAS to find a solution to ant invasion in social houses in community.

ACTION

EMES to reconnect water to waterfront toilet at Poruma community.

ACTION

EMES to reconnect water to sporting facility at Poruma community.

ACTION

EMES to facilitate fencing required at Council depot at Poruma community.

ACTION

EMES to facilitate fencing required at landfill at Poruma community.

ACTION

ACEO (EO) – issues with jobs not being done in Kubin community (EO to get specifics).

ACTION

EMFS to distribute *Bridging the Gap* LGAQ training flyer to all Councillors.

ACTION

AEMCS (MA) – Female Council office toilets in the Hammond Island office still out of action.

Cr Levi raised an issue where he has been told there appears to be a uneven playing field when it comes to allocation of jobs between non local contractors and the local contractors in the community. He has been advised that when the local contractors ring they are told that there are no jobs but then these same contractors see the non local contractors doing the jobs they enquired about. Issues echoed by Cr Bosun for Kubin also.

Mayor Gela advised that when the concern came through via email to him, he went to the ACEO and the housing team. When the Mayor investigated it was not as Cr Levi was told. The local contractors need to complete the jobs they have been allocated, as sitting on the computer system were several jobs over 90 days old. When this happens, outside contractors are called in to work on the backlog. Mayor Gela is happy to speak to the local contractor at any time.

Cr Sabatino enquired about the Financial Sustainability Summit being held in Cairns 29-30 March 2017. Small delegation of Councillors to attend with cost to be funded from the Councillors development funds.

ACEO passed on a big thank you to Mayor Gela, Councillor Sabatino for their hospitality of hosting the meeting and to Mary Gela and ladies for their incredible food and catering.

3:52pm

Meeting Close

The meeting closed in prayer by Cr Lui