



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 22 April 2025



SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island Council held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025

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These minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27th May 2025


 Presiding Member Shire President Gordon Thomson

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CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

- 1.1 The Shire President Gordon THOMSON declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.
- 1.2 Shire President Gordon THOMSON announced Benjamin WEISNER, documentary film maker to the meeting. WEISNER to present later in meeting on purpose of his visit to Christmas Island to create a feature documentary focusing on island youth.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

- 2.1 Record of Attendance
Shire President
Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**
Cr Kee Heng **FOO**
Cr Philip **WOO**
Cr Hafiz **MASLI**
Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**
Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**
Cr Swee **TUNG**
Cr Steve **PEREIRA**

Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker
Director Community/Recreation Services
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Assistant Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Chris **SU**
Olivier **LINES**
Kevin **WILSON**
Wei **HO**

- 2.2 **Leave of Absence**
Deputy President

Cr Azmi **YON**

2.3 Apologies

2.4 Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 4.1 Cr Hafiz MASLI raised attention to signposts to the rear of 'blue block' in Flying Fish Cove that have been downed recently. Cr MASLI unsure if it was due to the recent water mains work by Water Corporation contractors in their works in the area, the recent storm damage or other.

ACTION – Director of Works and Services to investigate the matter, action appropriately and report to Council.

- 4.2 Cr Vincent SAW advised that signs around the island were looking aged and may be due for a refresh. These included locality signs as well as street signs.
ACTION – Director of Works and Services to inspect and advise of appropriate next steps.

- 4.3 Cr Vincent SAW advised that ratepayers queried with him about the three inactive lights in the Poon Saan Community Hall.

ACTION – Director of Recreation and Community Services to inspect, action appropriately and report to Council.

- 4.4 Cr PEREIRA reported that he received feedback from the community that the Islamic Cemetery had not been attended to by the Parks and Gardens team in time for the Eid celebrations.

ACTION – That the Director of Works and Services ensure future programming of maintenance prior to Eid.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 5.1 Cr SAW – Leave of absence

Cr Vincent SAW withdrew his application for leave of absence for the period 22nd April to 23rd April 2025.

- 5.2 Cr YON – Leave of absence

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 18/25

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Azmi YON (11/04/2025 to 29/04/2025) be approved.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Shire President Gordon THOMSON invited film maker Benjamin WEISNER to address the council.

WEISNER advises he first came to the island several years ago as a Parks Australia employee. He is now a full-time film maker and was recently successful in a *Documentary Australia* grant in the ACT for a documentary piece focusing on Christmas Island youth.

He will be on Christmas Island for three weeks and is being assisted through the Community Services section with gathering interviewees for the film. Requested Councillors assistance as well in referring him to youth leaders or groups for interview development.

WEISNER advises that he plans for the film to be distributed on the film festival circuit. He also advised he had another grant application through the *Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)* for the post shooting editing process.

Councillors were informed they can receive WEISNER's contact details through the Director for Recreation and Community Services Oliver LINES following the meeting.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 March 2025

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr FOO

Res. No: 19/25

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 18 March 2025 Council Meeting.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

7.2 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 March 2025

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 20/25

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 26 March 2025 Special Council Meeting.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

7.3 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Shire President Gordon THOMSON informed the meeting of the availability of a vet on the island for an August 2025 visit for the neutering and chipping of cats.
- 8.2 Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised the meeting that the Australian Electoral Commission are on Christmas Island this week to conduct voting for the 2025 Federal Election. The Shire will host early voting on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th April, with the Christmas Island Polling Day on Saturday 26th April from 8.00am to 6.00pm at the Poon Saan Community Hall. Councillors were encouraged to spread this news to constituents.
- 8.3 Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised the meeting that the ANZAC Day observation will return to Tai Jin House this year, with the ceremony to start at 5.30am. Cr PEREIRA advised that if there was a change to the location because of inclement weather, that the community will be informed as soon as possible.
- 8.4 Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised the meeting that the Union Day festival will take place from 6.30pm to 9.00pm, Saturday 26th April at Chinese Literary Association foreshore stage.
- 8.5 Shire President Gordon THOMSON asked the Council to observe a moment of silence for the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis who passed away April 21, 2025. Councillors rose to observe a moment of silence and reflection at 7.20pm.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Local Government Elections October 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr PEREIRA

Seconded: Cr TUNG

Res. No: 21/25

Declare, in accordance with section 4.20(4) of the Local Government Act 1995, the WA Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of the 2025 ordinary election.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

Absolute Majority

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – March 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 22/25

That Council receive the expenditure totalling \$1,539,004.24 as presented in March 2025 Schedule of Accounts.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

10.2.2 Financial Statements – March 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 23/25

That Council receives the Financial Statements of March 2025.

Carried: 8 / 0

For: Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr FOO

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr TUNG

Cr WOO

Cr SAW

Against:

10.2.3 CEO Delegated Authority- Finance 25/26

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 24/25

In accordance with Section 5.42 (1) and 5.44 of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA)(CI) Council delegates the following authority to the Chief Executive Officer for the financial year 25/26.

- To make payments on behalf of Council in accordance with Council Signatory/Authorization of EFT Procedure
- To sign cheques on behalf of council for an amount not exceeding \$250,000 s6.10 (d);
- To incur expenditure and to issue official orders not exceeding \$250,000 for non-capital expenditure s6.10 (d);
- To decide free of charge use of community facilities in accordance with CS2 – Use of Community Facilities Policy of Council;
- Power of entrance, etc. in relation to road works;
- To write off debts or rates incorrectly raised & other bad debts up to \$1000;
- To approve budget variations/new budget items not exceeding \$250,000;
- To obtain reassessment of the value of ratable property in the event of property improvement or property subdivision;
- To invest money held by council not required for immediate use s6.14;
- To arrange appropriate insurance in respect of all council properties;
- To negotiate terms and conditions of property leases;
- To negotiate terms and conditions and enter into lease agreements on Shire Houses where the weekly rent does not exceed \$600 per week;
- To dispose of property with no book value;
- To reimburse to an owner or occupier where property is damaged through the performance of a function of the local government to the maximum amount of \$2,000;
- To give notice to an occupier and or owner requiring them to do something in relation to land specified in Schedule 3.1 – Powers Under Notices to Owners or Occupiers of Land of the Local Government Act (WA) (CI) 1995
- To arrange for works to be carried out where the owner or occupier does not carry out required action in relation to land, and to recover the costs as a debt;
- To issue certificates of the local government pursuant to section 23 of the Strata Titles Act 1985 (WA)(CI).
- To change leases for the cost of insurance cover in respect to leased properties;
- As the principal Accounting Officer of Council, to prepare the annual financial reports;

To affix the common seal of the Shire of Christmas Island as required; and

In relation to recurrent expenditure, to pay amounts above the \$250,000 limit for:

- o Wages and salaries
- o Pay As You Earn taxation
- o Fringe Benefits taxation
- o Insurance premiums
- o Electricity charges

- o Lease payments
- o MRWA projects
- o Superannuation

To contract works or capital projects that have been previously approved by a resolution of Council
Within the provisions of Section 3.50 (1) (1a) (2) (4) (8) of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI)
to:

- 1) To close any thoroughfare that the SOCI manages for the passage of vehicles, wholly or partially, for a period not exceeding four (4) weeks;
- 2) To close any thoroughfare that the SOCI manages for the passage of vehicles, wholly or partially, for a period exceeding four (4) weeks

Carried: 8 / 0 Absolute Majority

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr FOO
	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr WOO	Cr SAW	

Against:

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.3.1 Celebrating 27th Anniversary Seniors Week 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE **Seconded: Cr WOO** **Res. No: 25/25**

That the Shire of Christmas Island coordinates the 2025 Seniors Week celebration from the 21st to 27th July 2025 and invites sponsorship from community organisations to assist in facilitating this annual event.

Carried: 8 / 0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr FOO
	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr WOO	Cr SAW	

Against:

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

10.5 Director Planning, Governance & Policy

10.5.1 Local Laws Comment Period

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 26/25**

That Council notes the feedback received on local laws from the comment period and accept the extension of all local laws put out for statutory comment being –

1. SOCI Animals, Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2018
2. SOCI Cats Local Law 2018

3. SOCI Dogs Local Law 2018
4. SOCI Health Local Law 2018
5. SOCI Waste Local Law 2019
6. SOCI Parking and Parking Facilities Local Law 2019
7. SOCI Plastic Bag Reduction Local Law 2018
8. SOCI Standing Orders Local Law 2018
9. SOCI Cemeteries Local Law 2013

Carried: 8 / 0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr FOO
	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr WOO	Cr SAW	

Against:

Absolute Majority

10.5.2 Policy Manual Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE **Seconded: Cr MASLI** **Res. No: 27/25**

That Council adopts the following reviewed policies –

- 10.5.2.1 Elected Members 6 – Travel Reimbursement
- 10.5.2.2 Elected Members 7 – Council Employment
- 10.5.2.3 Elected Members 8 – Elected Members Training and Development
- 10.5.2.4 Elected Members 9 – Professional Development for Elected Members
- 10.5.2.5 Financial Policy 1 – Regional Price Preference
- 10.5.2.6 Financial Policy 2 - Purchasing
- 10.5.2.7 Financial Policy 2-1 – Purchasing, Petty Cash
- 10.5.2.8 Financial Policy 3 – Corporate Credit Cards
- 10.5.2.9 Financial Policy 5 – Debt Recovery

Carried: 8 / 0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr FOO
	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr WOO	Cr SAW	

Against:

10.6.1 Community Assistance Grant Report

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 28/25**

That Council receives the President's report of the community assistance grant to the Christmas Island Kung Fu Association of \$1,000 to assist the purchase of new Lion Heads.

Carried:	8 / 0		
For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr PEREIRA	Cr FOO
	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr WOO	Cr SAW	
Against:			

- 11 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**
- 12 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING**
- 13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**
- 14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**
The Shire President closed the meeting at 7.45pm.
- 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27 May 2025**