



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 18 March 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 18 March 2025**

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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 18 March 2025

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

- 1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

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

- 1.2 Record of Attendance

Shire President

Deputy President

Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**

Cr Azmi **YON**

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Swee **TUNG**

Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**

Cr Steve **PEREIRA**

Chief Executive Officer

Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker

Director Community/Recreation Services

Director Works, Services & Waste

Assistant Director of Finance and Corporate Services

David **PRICE**

Chris **SU**

Olivier **LINES**

Troy **DAVIS**

Wei **HO**

- 2.2 **Leave of Absence**

- 2.3 **Apologies**

- 2.4 **Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest**

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

- 3.1 CEO David PRICE addressed item Public Question item 4.3 from the February 4th 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, a query on outstanding rates.

CEO PRICE advised that 19 ratepayers had rates overdue. Letters had been sent to advise the ratepayers of their arrears. Two had addressed their debts, and one had finalised a payment schedule with CEO. One more ratepayer is currently engaging with the CEO to create a payment schedule also. The balance of the letter recipients had not responded as yet to the CEO.

CEO PRICE advised that Softstar, the previous lessee of the CI Resort site, had not paid their outstanding rates. The Commonwealth withdrew Softstar's lease in 2024 and are the current ratepayers for the CI Resort site going forward. SOCI has options with the administrators of the Softstar business to pursue recovery of debt owing. Director of Finance Kevin WILSON will be on island shortly and will be able to advise more on options available to Council. Council will be kept up to date on the matter.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 4.1 Stephanie LAI of 4 Jalan Ketam Merah requested Council's consideration in hosting the Christmas Island Toy Library facility at the George Fam Public Library. LAI advised that the demountable building at the school the Toy Library was currently housed in is being retired; the Toy Library needed a new home and asked if Council could consider the George Fam Public Library premises for this?

Shire President Gordon THOMSON requested a letter from the Christmas Island Toy Library committee addressed to Council outlining their situation and proposal.

- 4.2 Stephanie LAI of 4 Jalan Ketam Merah requested to know if the Shire Ranger had the power to issue infringement notices? Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised that the Shire Ranger does have the power to infringe persons who have not followed the SOCI Parking Local Law.

Director DAVIS provided an update on the present actions regarding vehicle infringements; 30 vehicles were highlighted as possibly abandoned with 7 vehicles either moved or re-registered. 23 warning notices are out now on the remaining vehicles with infringements expected in the coming weeks as the Australian Federal Police provide vehicle ownership details. Director DAVIS noted that Council does not have visibility on ownership of vehicles, that this information was accessible through the AFP only.

- 4.3 Cr Hafiz MASLI raised residents' requests for an update regarding Flying Fish Cove damage from the recent storm impacts.

CEO PRICE summarised the weather events year to date 2025. Provided that the Australian Federal Police requested sandbags for Flying Fish Cove at the January 30th Emergency Management Committee (EMC) meeting. These sandbags were ready and delivered within a day with residents having access to them for use onsite.

The EMC met on 2nd February and daily thereafter implementing a range of measures to address the storm development and subsequent damage at Flying Fish Cove. This included restricting traffic access to Flying Fish Cove and utilising the Shire SMS Emergency alert system to distribute EMC notices and their translations.

CEO PRICE stated that the seawall was damaged during the January event, with parts of it collapsing. Sink holes had begun to appear on the foreshore; most notable was the sinkhole under the bus shelter resulting in its collapse. The bus shelter has since been removed, but the concrete pad has been left as it assists in covering a portion of the sinkhole opening.

CEO PRICE noted that the Flying Fish Cove roadway is not damaged but that there had been damage to rooves across the island. CEO PRICE thanked the volunteer SES/CI Firefighter volunteers and AFP for their effective and immediate addressing of damaged rooves throughout the storm event. The damaged rooves have since been repaired.

The Foreshore Padang has not experienced any damage from this week's storm weather system.

CEO PRICE advised Council that at the EMC meeting that day of 18 March 2025 the EMC received notice from the Bureau of Meteorology that there was a low off the south-west coast of Christmas Island that was the cause of the present storm event. It is expected that the system will reduce in intensity during the next few days, however BOM advised that there was the chance of a cyclone forming later in the week.

CEO PRICE advised that the EMC has reintroduced sandbags and stopped traffic movements outside blue block 413. The EMC has also requested that residents minimise travel at this time. Noted that the present weather system is not as large as the previous system earlier in January 2025.

CEO PRICE provided that the Indian Ocean Territories Administration has tenders out for seawall repairs at the present, with a view to commence works within calendar 2025.

- 4.4 Cr Melissa TUNG requested an update on the August 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting item regarding the SOCI invasive species management program.

CEO PRICE advises that the Shire is in negotiations with a rat trap supplier in Perth. With regards to fowl management, SOCI is acquiring nets to target the larger known chicken populations on the island. SOCI is looking to engage contractors to assist fowl management.

The AFP were shooting chickens on Christmas Island at the Shire's request; however, their Canberra offices had instructed them to cease this practice until further notice.

The AFP team on Christmas Island has asked Shire to provide them with the authority to control fowl in this manner; upon research, WA local governments do not have the ability to provide authority to the AFP for this action. CEO PRICE advises that he has contacted the Commonwealth for assistance in exploring what pathway may be available to conduct controlled shooting of chickens in the territory.

CEO PRICE summarised that local government had the powers to trap, but not to shoot chickens. Noted that CI National Parks did have the power to shoot chickens as it fell within their powers as a national park for chickens found inside national park areas.

- 4.5 Cr TUNG requested to know how frequently does Council re-paint parking lot markings around the island. Director DAVIS advises that the paint deterioration rate on Christmas Island is unusually accelerated due to a range of factors including humidity, road base, presence of phosphate dust and road temperature. Council addresses the painting requirements on the roadways which are a priority over car parks. SOCI works section engaged the advice of Main Roads WA on thermo-plastic options for parking lot markings.
- 4.6 Cr PEREIRA asked if Council could investigate a truck parked at Drumsite Park which seems to be within the park boundaries. Director DAVIS to follow up.
- 4.7 Cr PEREIRA noted the use of the SMS platform to distribute the EMC Storm Warning of 18.3.2025 and requested if it could be disseminated on the Shire's social media as well. Shire CEO advised it can be put on the Shire's website.
- 4.8 Cr PEREIRA raised the matter of unoccupied properties sitting vacant for extended periods of time around Christmas Island and requested to know what the Shire could do to direct those owners to make use or otherwise activate them?

Shire President Gordon THOMSON informed the meeting of the local government's statutory responsibilities around planning, building, demolition and health in regard to property. Summarised that local government cannot instruct or direct a person to utilise any vacant property that they may own; local governments can require property owners to address matters relating to health such as vermin infestation or green overgrowth but cannot require property owners to utilise the property itself over being left responsibly vacant.

Cr PEREIRA requested to know who allows for property to be purchased or owned, in particular the Barracks in Settlement in relation to some being disused for long amounts of time? Cr PEREIRA advised that lengthy vacancies are not useful to the economy and requested to know does Council have any power to require the owners of vacancies to activate them?

Shire President Gordon THOMSON recounted that the Commonwealth had a practice of requiring persons who obtained tenure over property the Commonwealth was disposing to utilise it within a set amount of time or return the property back to the Commonwealth and reiterated that the Shire has no power as to what Cr PEREIRA was seeking.

Cr LEE advised that following the March 1988 storm, that the Barracks were retired from residential use and could no longer house people. The WA Applied Laws Regime began in 1992 which saw land released to the market and zoning responsibilities given to the newly established local government.

- 4.9 Cr YON acknowledged the efforts of the Operations team for their consistent efforts for clean-up and ensuring community safety during the weather systems in 2025 to date.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr WOO – Leave of Absence

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 9/25

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Philip WOO (07/03/2025 to 04/04/2025) be approved.

Carried: 7/0

For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		

Against

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 4 February 2025

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 10/25

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 4 February 2025 Council Meeting.

Carried: 7/0

For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		

Against

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 ALGA Conference

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	Res. No:	11/25
That Council –			
1.Confirm registration to attend the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National Assembly conference scheduled for 24 to 27 June 2025 in Canberra,			
2.Nominates the Shire President, the CEO and Councillors MASLI and YON to attend the conference for the purpose of registration, travel and accommodation arrangements,			
3.Advise the CEO of any Motions by 31 March 2025 that Council may want to have included in the Conference Agenda Papers and,			
4.Confirm the voting (x 1) and proxy (x 1) delegates for the conference.			
Carried:	7/0		
For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		
Against			

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – February 2025

Council Resolution			
Moved: Cr FOO	Seconded: Cr YON	Res. No:	12/25
That Council receive the expenditure totalling \$1,193,892.02 as presented in the February 2025 Schedule of Accounts.			
Carried:	7/0		
For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		
Against			

10.2.2 Financial Statements – January 2025 & February 2025

Council Resolution			
Moved: Cr MASLI	Seconded: Cr LEE	Res. No:	13/25
That Council receives the Financial Statements of January 2025 & February 2025.			
Carried:	7/0		
For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		
Against			

10.2.3 Christmas Island- Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2024

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 14/25

Audit Committee review the Christmas Island-Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2024 and present to council for adoption.

Carried: 7/0

For
Cr THOMSON
Cr PEREIRA
Cr LEE

Cr YON
Cr MASLI

Cr FOO
Cr TUNG

Against

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

10.5 Director Planning, Governance & Policy

10.5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Application, 105 Gaze Road

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr PEREIRA

Seconded: Cr TUNG

Res. No: 15/25

That Council approves the planning application request for Short-Term Accommodation at 'Historic House' on 105 Gaze Road

Carried: 7/0

For
Cr THOMSON
Cr PEREIRA
Cr LEE

Cr YON
Cr MASLI

Cr FOO
Cr TUNG

Against

10.5.2 Policy Manual Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 16/25

That council adopts the following reviewed policies

10.5.2.1 ICT1 – Information Communications Tech Systems Security

10.5.2.2 ICT2 - Access Management Policy

10.5.2.3 ICT3 – Information Communications Tech Use Policy

10.5.2.4 ICT 4 – ICT Business Continuity

10.5.2.5 ICT 5 – Change Documentation Management

10.5.2.6 ICT 6 – Network Security Management

10.5.2.7 ICT 7 – Server Room Management

10.5.2. 8 Elected Members 3 – Community Consultation

10.5.2.9 Elected Members 4 – Member Allowances

10.5.2.10 Elected Members 5 – Elected Members Training and Development

Carried: 7/0

For	Cr THOMSON	Cr YON	Cr FOO
	Cr PEREIRA	Cr MASLI	Cr TUNG
	Cr LEE		

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 7.50pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22 April 2025