



# CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 23 March 2021



**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 23 March 2021**

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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 23 March 2021**

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.02pm

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

2.1 Record of Attendance

Shire President

Deputy President

Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

Cr Philip **WOO**

Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Azmi **YON**

Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**

Chief Executive Officer

Manager Finance and Admin

Manager Community/Recreation Services

Manager Works, Services & Waste

Manager Research, Policy, Governance & Grants/Minute Taker

David **PRICE**

So Hon **GAN**

Olivier **LINES**

Graeme **HEDDITCH**

Chris **SU**

2.2 **Leave of Absence**

Councillor

Cr Farzian **ZAINAL**

2.3 **Apologies**

Councillor

Cr Morgan Boon Hwa **SOH**

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

**3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

4.1 Cr THOMSON raises feedback from a SERCO employee on the condition of North-West Point Road. Recounted a vehicle accident that happened on NWP Road in February 2021, noted that the wet season's rains this year was significantly higher than average.

Cr THOMSON had informed the person that NWP Road was under the ownership of Parks Australia and not the local council. Put forward however that road safety was everyone's concern.

The CEO David PRICE and MWSW Graeme HEDDITCH were working with Parks Australia to resolve safety issues; a tender process is underway at the moment from Parks Australia looking to address road maintenance in their jurisdiction and the Shire is participating.

Discussion followed on some options to address traffic on NWP Road; alternative includes redirecting traffic onto East West Baseline. Cr THOMSON had travelled on NWP Road and

confirms that its state is poor, with many potholes hindering travel at normal speeds. Cr YON confirms that signage in the area has reduced speed to 40km/h.

Discussion on a PRL road train that had caused damage to crab fencing in the forest. Council understood that PRL were making some kind of assistance to the needs to maintaining Murray Road, a section of road important to production.

- 4.2 Cr THOMSON refers residents' queries of the rockfall event in Flying Fish Cove the previous fortnight. Put that the Shire needs to continue to be proactive in Land Planning in the context of this latest development. A follow up to the September 2020 Kampong Coastal Hazard Risk Management meeting was discussed. The Shire CEO advised that an engineering report is due from the Emergency Management Committee on the state of the cliffs.

## **5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **5.1 Cr Zainal – Leave of Absence**

#### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr YON**

**Seconded: Cr FOO**

**Res. No: 9/21**

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Farzian ZAINAL (12/3/2021 to 23/3/2021) be approved.

**Carried: 7/0**

## **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 9 February 2021**

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

#### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr LEE**

**Seconded: Cr SAW**

**Res. No: 10/21**

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 9 February 2021 Council Meeting.

**Carried: 7/0**

### **7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

## **8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 Cr THOMSON provided an update on the Indian Ocean Learning Communities. There is collaboration between IOLC, Phytocyte and the Australian and Singapore Phenome Centres in developing commercial and research outcomes in the agricultural sector on Christmas Island.

Cr THOMSON provided a document to Councillors that was also provided to Dr. Rachel BACON, the Deputy Secretary, and the office of the Assistant Minister Nola MARINO.

Cr THOMSON recounts meeting in October 2020 in the Bunbury electorate office of the Assistant Minister with Herve CALMY (IOLC) and Karl WATKIN (Phytocyte). They presented to the Assistant Minister that the plan is to use relinquished mining leases for the agricultural projects.

Cr THOMSON explained that then Assistant Minister of Territories Dr. John MCVEIGH in March 2017 had committed the Commonwealth to disposing of specific parcels of land for economic development pending Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 clearance; this has morphed into a Strategic Assessment under the EPBC Act 1999 now several years later.

The goal of this Christmas Island Strategic Assessment is to support the release of land by documenting what heritage or environmental conditions, if any, may be attached to specific parcels of land.

The Shire's own strategic initiative to contribute to economic development and diversification alongside our Local Planning Strategy is the Christmas Island Singapore Strategy. This centred around meeting the various needs of Singapore in agriculture, research, tourism and so on with deliverables from Christmas Island. Phytocyte is an example of a company that wants to establish business on Christmas Island land to do precisely by growing pharma products on CI for export to Singapore. A secondary business for them would be vegetables for local consumption and export to Singapore.

Cr THOMSON has been seeking acknowledgement from the Assistant Minister that land can be made available for the agriceutical project. The Phytocyte project could employ around 100 persons and attract former Islanders to return, but moreover, retain persons on the Island now providing education and training for our future generations.

Cr THOMSON referred to communication between himself and the Assistant Minister sent around January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 where he asked for a follow up meeting to brief the Assistant Minister on developments with the IOLC and Phytocyte. The meeting was denied. The Shire had met with the new First Assistant Secretary Sarah VANDENBROEK and Assistant Secretary Aaron O'NEIL on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was positive, with a commitment to restart the monthly CISA-Local Planning Scheme meetings that had ceased in October 2020.

## 9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

## 10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### 10.1 Chief Executive Officer

#### 10.1.1 Report of Review to Initiate Formal Review of the TPS No.2

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr MASLI**

**Seconded: Cr LEE**

**Res. No: 11/21**

Council approve the SOCI March 2021 Report of Review (the Report), and its recommendations and provide the approved Report to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) as per-requisite to formally initiate the review of the Local Planning Scheme No. 2 (LPS No.2) as amended.

**Carried: 7/0**

#### 10.1.2 Proposed Amendment to the Light Industrial Area

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr YON**

**Seconded: Cr MASLI**

**Res. No: 12/21**

Council approves in principle the March 2021 Proposed Amendment to the Light Industrial Area (The Report) and its proposed Actions as input into the Christmas Island Strategic Assessment (CISA) Land Use Plan (LUP), the Review of the 2015 Local Planning Strategy and ultimately the formulation of the Local Planning Scheme No.3 (LPS No.3).

Council to seek stakeholders and community comments on the Report through Public Notice.

**Carried: 7/0**

#### 10.1.3 Foreshore Padang Shelter (Settlement Cinema Masterplan 2020)

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr YON**

**Seconded: Cr FOO**

**Res. No: 13/21**

The Shire Council to seek the agreement of the IOTA on the proposal for new foreshore shelter as identified on attachment 10.1.3.1 and the subsequent issuing of a Management Order to the Shire

over that area.

Subject to the agreement of the IOTA to the new proposed foreshore shelter the CEO is to present a budget for that development for inclusion in the 21/22 budget.

**Carried: 7/0**

#### 10.1.4 2021 ALGA Conference in Canberra

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr LEE** **Seconded: Cr WOO** **Res. No: 14/21**

Council determines not to attend the 2021 ALGA Nation Conference in Canberra due to possible 14 day quarantine periods being imposed should a COVID-19 breakout occur during the Conference period.

**Carried: 7/0**

### **10.2 Manager Finance & Administration**

#### 10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – February 2021

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr FOO** **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 15/21**

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in February 2021 Schedule of Accounts

**Carried: 7/0**

#### 10.2.2 Financial Statements - February 2021

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr MASLI** **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 16/21**

That Council receives the Financial Statements of February 2021 for the Municipal Fund.

**Carried: 7/0**

### **10.3 Manager Community/Recreation Services & Training**

### **10.4 Manager Works, Services & Waste**

#### 10.4.1 LRCI Funding Program Phase 1

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr WOO** **Res. No: 17/21**

That Council receives the update for LRCI Funding Program Phase 1.

**Carried: 7/0**

### **10.5 Manager Governance, Research, Policy & Grants**

#### 10.5.1 Grants Update

##### **Council Resolution**

**Moved: Cr LEE** **Seconded: Cr FOO** **Res. No: 18/21**

That the Council receives the update from the Manager for Governance, Research, Policy and Grants on the Australia Day COVID Safe grant application, Building Better Regions Fund Program 2021 applications, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 1 and Phase 2 applications, Community Environment Program 2020 and the Safer Communities Program 2021 grant application.

**Carried: 7/0**

## **11 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

## 12 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

### 12.1 Resolution to Accept New Business on Bereavement Leave Arrangement for the CEO

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 19/21**

That the Council receive new business regarding bereavement leave arrangements for the Shire CEO

**Carried: 7/0**

### 12.2 Bereavement Leave Arrangements for the CEO

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr FOO** **Res. No: 20/21**

Council resolves to grant ten days bereavement leave to the Shire CEO and full bereavement leave return airfare to the east coast and return to Christmas Island

**Carried: 7/0**

## 13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr FOO** **Res. No: 21/21**

The meeting be closed to members of the public in accordance with section 5.23(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 for council to discuss matter of a confidential nature.

**Carried: 7/0**

### 13.1 Manager's Conditions

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr FOO** **Res. No: 22/21**

That Council endorses the position taken by the CEO on the application of manager's time-off-in-lieu during the COVID 19 travel restrictions.

That Council also endorses the CEO's recommended actions in returning to normal application of Clause 22 and AD3 Policy (Manager Conditions)

**Carried: 7/0**

#### Council Resolution

**Moved: Cr YON** **Seconded: Cr FOO** **Res. No: 23/21**

The meeting be reopened to members of the public.

**Carried: 7/0**

## 14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 8.31pm

## 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27 April 2021