



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 17 November 2020



**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 17 November 2020

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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 17 November 2020

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.05pm.

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

2.1 Record of Attendance

Shire President
Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**
Cr Philip **WOO**
Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**
Cr Hafiz **MASLI**
Cr Morgan Boon Hwa **SOH**
Cr Farzian **ZAINAL**
Cr Azmi **YON**(arrives 7.15pm)
Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**
David **PRICE**
Chris **SU**
Olivier **LINES**
Graeme **HEDDITCH**

Chief Executive Officer
Manager Research, Policy, Governance & Grants/Minute Taker
Manager Community/Recreation Services
Manager Works, Services & Waste

2.2 **Leave of Absence**

Deputy President

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

2.3 **Apologies**

Manager Finance and Admin

So Hon **GAN**

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

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Cr Farzian ZAINAL requested an update on the Keep Australia Beautiful program and the island welcome pack initiative. CEO David PRICE informs meeting that he had been in contact with Department of Water and Environment officer Tim FRANCIS who has been the partner in developing the Christmas Island Steel Water Bottle welcome pack initiative. Tim FRANCIS had been stuck in New Zealand during the pandemic and unable to cross into Australia, delaying the completion of the project. CEO David PRICE said it would likely be in 2021.

Other items for welcome back discussed including information brochure and cigarette butt containers.

MCRST Oliver LINES informed meeting that Shire had assisted in three clean up programs this year to date; Australia Day clean up, Greta Beach Clean Up and the Great Northern Clean Up at Dolly Beach. The Marine Debris Project was organised by Island Care who had informed Shire and other stakeholders that they had to delay the project because of COVID. MCRST Oliver Lines noted that Keep Australia Beautiful Committee Samantha CULBERTSON was coming to the Island on November 26th.

- 4.2 Cr Farzian ZAINAL asked for an update to the December School Holiday Program; put forward that there might be a higher than normal on-island population this holiday season than normal. MCRST Oliver LINES advised that he met with Youth Community Services Officer Suzane CHAN this week, and to expect a schedule in an Islander edition before the December school holidays.
- 4.3 Cr Farzian ZAINAL advised the meeting that the shower at the Cove Gazebos was blocked, with water backing up onto the shower area. There was an unpleasant smell associated with this. CEO David PRICE advised that this was a Commonwealth asset and that Shire would contact IOTA the following day to advise of this community feedback for their action.
- 4.4 Cr Kelvin LEE informed the meeting that a new Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories inquiry had been announced regarding telecommunications last Friday 13th. Noted that there were numerous community feedback over the years on the state of telecommunications. Cr Gordon THOMSON informed the meeting that he was aware of the inquiry and had an initial discussion with CEO on the matter.

Cr Gordon THOMSON requested that the Shire draft a submission for the review of Councillors at the December 8th Council Meeting.

Cr Azmi YON arrives at 7.15pm

- 4.5 Cr Hafiz MASLI at the request of a resident informed the meeting of their dissatisfaction at the untidiness left after a rubbish bin pick up earlier this week at their home. CEO David PRICE informed the meeting that he and MWS Graeme HEDDITCH have been informed and had resolved the matter earlier that day.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr Woo – Leave of Absence

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 109/20

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Philip Woo (4/12/2020 to 18/12/2020) be approved.

Carried: 8/0

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 20 October 2020

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr WOO

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 110/20

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 20 October 2020 Council Meeting.

Carried: 8/0

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 7.2.1 Cr Gordon THOMSON advised that Dr. Kelvin MATTHEWS and Prof. Martin DRUM are coming to the Island December 1st to 4th to deliver a series of workshops on governance. The session for Councillors is 4:15pm, Wednesday 2nd December at the Shire Chambers, or possibly other venue, CEO to advise.

7.2.2 Cr Farzian ZAINAL raised item 10.5.2 from the October meeting on Dental concerns. Have IOTHS advised the community that PATS would be provided for dental needs at this time without dentists on the island? Cr Gordon THOMSON says that although Acting Director Andrew MURPHY had informed the October Council meeting that he had directed IOTHS to include dental patients in PATS.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.1 Cr Gordon THOMSON reminds Council that the Audit Committee meeting is on Thursday 26th November at 3.00pm, Council Chambers. Teleconference with the Office of the Auditor General and their partner auditors Moore Stephens.

8.2 Cr Gordon THOMSON reports on the Shire's meeting on 2nd November on the Fisheries Ordinance at the Malay Club. Summarised that the attendees felt that it was disrespectful and offensive that the two previous petitions, the November 2019 Malay Club consultation with the Dept of Primary Industries (Fisheries), Perth Department of Territories officials and the Administrator brought zero modification to the disputed 2019 version of the Draft CI Fisheries Ordinance. The 2020 version is exactly the same as the 2019 version with only the date and the name of the Governor General changed.

Cr Gordon THOMSON advised that Vanessa BENNETT of C Change Solutions had been engaged by the Commonwealth to produce a formal 'Community Consultation Protocol' in 2018/19 but that it has yet to be released to the public despite several written requests from the Shire to the Commonwealth to do so. Noted that the requirement to 'consult' was necessary in Government practice, but the outcomes have not changed since any of the feedback was collected in this case.

Cr Gordon THOMSON stated that this was a removal of local people from being able to meaningfully participate in the development of laws and governance in the community. Cr Gordon THOMSON compared it to the removal of the two Shires from the committee of the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation which displaced elected representation from the ability to participate in economic development funding decisions.

Summarised the outcomes of the Malay Club meetings as:

- 1) Restate the objections from 2019;
- 2) That a political campaign opposing the fisheries ordinance be had and
- 3) That the People's Assembly be reconvened

And that the above be communicated in The Islander.

8.3 Cr Gordon THOMSON recounted the Saturday October 24th Shire meeting with the US Consul General, noting that it was the first time a US Consul General had visited Christmas Island. The Chinese Consul Generals had tended to visit the Island historically with every rotation of consul in Perth.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meetings

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 111/20

That the Confirmed Minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meeting of September 2nd 2020 be received.

Carried: 8/0

9.2 Business Arising from the CCC 2nd September 2020 Confirmed Minutes

9.3 Unconfirmed Minutes of October 21st CCC Meeting

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr SOH

Res. No: 112/20

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meeting of October 21st be received.

Carried: 8/0

9.4 Business Arising from the CCC 21st October 2020 Unconfirmed Minutes

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Management Order

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr SAW

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 113/20

Council approves the proposed conditions of the Management Order for the Proposed Gaze Road Community Recreation Area Lots 600 and 601 and accordingly the CEO is to advise IOTA.

Carried: 8/0

10.1.2 Dates for Ordinary Council Meetings 2021

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 114/20

That Council adopts the following schedule of Ordinary Meetings for 2021 in accordance with section 5.25 (1) (g) of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995 and the Local Government Administration Regulations 1996 commencing at 7.00pm at the George Fam Centre Council Chambers on the fourth Tuesday of each month with the exceptions of:

- 9 February 2021 ordinary meeting due to the long period of no meetings between December 2020 and February 2021.
- 15th June 2021 Ordinary Meeting being the 3rd Tuesday due to the ALGA National Conference in Canberra being the following week.
- 16 November 2021 Ordinary Meeting being the 3rd Tuesday 3 weeks after the October 2020 Ordinary Meeting and 3 weeks before the December 2021 Ordinary Meeting which is scheduled for the 7th December 2021 being the 2nd Tuesday due to the Christmas close down period in December 2021.

9 February 2021

23 March 2021

27 April 2021

25 May 2021

15 June 2021

27 July 2021

24 August 2021

28 September 2021

26 October 2021

16 November 2021

7 December 2021

Carried: 8/0

10.1.3 Gaze Road Recreational (Foreshore Padang) Shade Cover

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr ZAINAL** **Res. No: 115/20**

Council approves the Shade Cover for the Gaze Road Recreational Area (Foreshore Padang) as recommended by the CEO and notes it is within the amount allocated in GL 1157210 of the adopted 20/21 Budget.

Carried: 8/0

10.2 Manager Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts - October 2020

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE **Seconded: Cr SOH** **Res. No: 116/20**

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in October 2020 Schedule of Accounts

Carried: 8/0

10.2.2 Financial Statements - October 2020

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 117/20**

That Council receives the Financial Statements of October 2020 for the Municipal Fund.

Carried: 8/0

10.3 Manager Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Manager Works, Services & Waste

10.4.1 Purchase of 7 Ton Tray Truck

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr ZAINAL** **Res. No: 118/20**

That Council Accepts the Tender from Major Motors for the purchase of a 7 Ton Tray Truck \$ 102,740.00 including delivery to Zentner Shipping.

Carried: 8/0

10.5 Manager Governance, Research, Policy & Grants

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 New Business be added

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr MASLI** **Res. No: 119/20**

That the Council receive new business regarding the establishment of the Christmas Island People's Assembly and the establishment of a Fishing Management Committee

Carried: 8 / 0

12.2 Christmas Island People's Assembly

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE **Seconded: Cr YON** **Res. No: 120/20**

Arising from the President's report on the public meeting held at the Malay Club on 2nd November 2020 on the Christmas Island Applied Laws (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2020, that rejected the proposed Ordinance and endorsed that a public campaign be put into place to pursue a satisfactory community supported outcome, Council endorses the establishment of the Christmas Island People's Assembly and that President to convene the first meeting be held 4.30pm 19th November 2020 at the Post Office Padang.

Carried: 8/0

12.3 Shire Fishery Management Committee

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 121/20

That the Shire of Christmas Island establishes the Christmas Island Fishery Management Committee, the composition of the committee to be three Councillors and community nominees to be requested from the first meeting of the People's Assembly to be held 19th November 2020 and close 4pm 2nd December 2020. The final composition of the committee to be decided at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 8th December 2020.

Carried: 8/0 Absolute Majority

13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8 December 2020