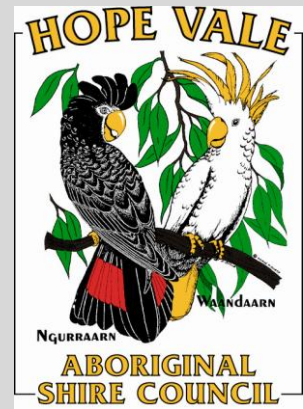


# Minutes



General Meeting

Wednesday, 14 May 2014

Council Chambers, Hope Vale

## MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

**Members Present:** Cr. Greg McLean (Mayor) - via teleconference Cairns Office  
Cr June Pearson (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr. Carmen Pearson  
Cr. Dwayne Bowen  
Cr Chris Woibo

## OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

**Officers Present:** Chief Executive Officer Ross Higgins

As the Mayor was not in the Council Chambers, it was agreed that Deputy Mayor June Pearson would chair of the meeting

## MEETING OPENED

Meeting declared open at 9.30 am

## APOLOGIES

nil

**Item 1: Declaration of conflict, any perceived or other potential conflict of interest to be declared prior to meeting.**

Nil

**Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 19 March, 2014**

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

01140514 Resolution: That the minutes of the General Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record.

**CARRIED**

**Item 3: Business arising from minutes of General Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2013.**

Nil

**Item 4: REPORTS**

**1. Mayor**

Attended the following meetings:

- Meet with the Premier and a number of Ministers following Cyclone Ita in relation to recovery and response activities.
- Support for Hope Vale Foundation with meetings to assist in recovery of Banana Farm and seeking financial support.

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

02140514 Resolution: That the report from the Mayor be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

**Housing New Construction Program**

Council and Council officers have been in prolonged discussions and negotiations endeavouring to come to an agreement on the prices for new construction following the State Government introducing price points for houses.

We have been told that the price points are not negotiable however have identified a number of areas that are not included in the price points and where savings can be made. However, the house sizes will need to be reduced, no disability modifications will be initially installed and overall labour costs may need to be reduced.

Recommendation that Council now proceeds with meeting price points and amends plans and costs accordingly.

**Moved by Cr Chris Woibo**

**Seconded by Cr Greg McLean**

03140514 Resolution: That Council agrees to meet the Department of Housing price points for new social housing construction and the Building/Construction Manager organise tenders accordingly.

**CARRIED**

### **Multi Purpose Centre Management**

At the close of applications for the position of Facility Manager, only one application was received as well as an expression of interest from PCYC to enter into a short term interim agreement. After the closing date, 2 further applications were received.

Discussions with PCYC had commenced at the time of the receipt of the additional applications and these have been put on hold pending discussion at this Council meeting.

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

04140514 Resolution: That the Chief Executive Officer continue negotiations with PCYC to enter into an interim facility management agreement for the operation of the Multi Purpose Centre.

**CARRIED**

### **Hope Vale Congress – Payment of Legal Costs**

Solicitors acting for the Hope Vale Congress have made a request through Council solicitors, Bottoms English Lawyers for the payment of legal costs of \$126,000.00 following the recent Supreme Court judgement in relation to the validity of the ILUA for the land transfer at Hope Vale.

**Moved by Cr Chris Woibo**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

05140514 Resolution: That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to advise Bottoms English Lawyers to negotiate the payment of legal fees to the Hope Vale Congress (to cover its legal expenses following the Supreme Court decision) up to the requested amount of \$126,000.00

**CARRIED**

### **Budget Preparation Meeting**

Wednesday 28 May has been set aside for discussion on the 2014/2015 budget.

### **Business Opportunity – Everlina Plaza**

There has been a request from Jo Reid to commence a Post Office/Gift Shop in one of the shops at Everlina Plaza. As Council currently operates the Post Office, we will need to commence discussions with Australia Post to transfer the arrangements in place.

Council has no objection to this proposal proceeding.

### **Home Fab**

Home Fab has requested permission to use photographs of the Business Precinct building and a couple of new houses (where Home Fab product was used) for their future catalogues.

Council has no objection to this request.

### **Hope Vale Foundation**

Hope Vale Foundation has shown an interest in leasing additional land at Millers Block from Council for future agricultural pursuits. There was agreement to this however commercial leasing arrangements will need to be considered.

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

06140514 Resolution: That Council agrees in principle to lease available land at Millers Block to the Hope Vale Foundation for agricultural purposes and for the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to undertake negotiations

**CARRIED**

### **Asset Advance**

There is an immediate requirement to engage Neil Teves from Asset Advance for Council's Indexation and Revaluations for current year financial statements.

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

07140514 Resolution: That Council resolves to engage Asset Advance for Council's obligation pertaining to yearly indexations and/or valuations because of the specialised nature of the services sought. Council believes, because of Asset Advances' existing and extensive knowledge of Council's assets, that it would be impractical and disadvantageous to invite quotes or tenders.

**CARRIED**

### **Community Justice Group**

Council currently auspices the funding for the Hope Vale Community Justice Group. The current funding arrangement with the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) ceases on 30 June 2014.

The Chief Executive Officer is to ascertain if additional funding will be provided by DJAG for 2014/2015 and commence discussions with the Justice Group Coordinator and Committee about possible alternative auspice organisations.

**Moved by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

**Seconded by Cr Carmen Pearson**

08140514 Resolution: That the report from Chief Executive Officer be accepted.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Finance Director's Report**

**Finance Director Shannon Gibbs entered meeting via teleconference from Cairns Office at 10.45am**

Report tabled and discussed by Council.

A number of areas were discussed for review as these will have an impact on Council finances into the future:

- Approvals for new house constructions and up-grades.
- The decision by the Government that day labour can no longer be charged for NDRRA works will have an impact on our civil construction gang.
- Costs to subsidise the Aged Care and Child Care operations.

**Finance Director Shannon Gibbs departed meeting 11.45am**

**Moved by Cr Chris Woibo**

**Seconded by Cr Dwayne Bowen**

09140514 Resolution: That the financial report incorporating the financial statements be approved and accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Social Services Director Report

The report is noted

Moved by Cr Carmen Pearson

Seconded by Cr Dwayne Bowen

10140514 Resolution: That the Social Services Director's Report be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### Item 5: VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Held over until later in the meeting

#### Item 6: AGENDA ITEMS

Nil

#### Item 7: CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 – Letter from Sha-lane Gibson seeking financial support to hold a Volley Ball competition in Hope Vale. Council believes that more information is required on this proposal before any decision can be made. Also, does it fit with other Sport and Recreation Activities and Plans currently underway

The Chief Executive Officer to organise to contact Sha-lane to discuss in more detail

7.2 – Letter from Charmaine Bowen from the Hope Vale Congress Rangers seeking approval to plant trees in the cemetery with the help of Cooktown students.

Council has no objection to this however suggests that Charmaine coordinates this through Peter Morrison

7.3 – Letter from Heather and Denise Hart seeking support from Council to write to the Department of Housing to enable them to remain in the transition house at 5 Alec Cameron Drive and not return to 104 Rose Street.

Council authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Housing on this matter.

7.4 – Letter from Heather Alexander from the Well Being Centre seeking approval from Council to undertake improvement works and landscaping in the grounds adjacent to the Well Being Centre.

Council has no objection to this proposal.

7.5 – Letter from Community residents providing feedback to Council following Cyclone Ita with the possible future aim of a coordinated approach for volunteers following any future event.

Council has requested that the Chief Executive Officer write to the group to acknowledge the letter. There is the opportunity for any community resident to join the SES where training and skills development in disaster management is available.

## **Item 5: VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Russell Gibson entered meeting at 12.45pm**

Russell advised Council of activities that could be proposed to assist with employment opportunities for workers from the Banana Farm that have been put out of work. These may be coordinated through the RJCP program at My Pathways. These include:

- Footpaths under a public infrastructure program
- Other possible town beautification projects

He also advised of a future sport and recreation activity through which a football competition could be organised as part of a RJCP activity.

It was suggested that a written report be made available to Council to consider in more detail.

### **Russell Gibson departed meeting at 1.15pm**

## **Item 8 – GENERAL BUSINESS**

nil

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.25 pm.

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**Cr G McLean**  
**Mayor**

.....  
**Ross Higgins**  
**Chief Executive Officer**