



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the **George Fam Chambers** at
7.00pm on **Tuesday 27 October 2015**

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.1 Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.10pm

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 Azmi **YON**

Cr Nora **KOH**

Cr Kelvin **LEE**

Cr Philip **WOO**

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Acting Manager Finance and Admin

Manager Recreation Services & Training Officer

Manager Works and Services

Colin **WHEADON**

Rostyna **OH**

Olivier **LINES**

Terry **CLARKE**

Minute Taker

Wei **HO**

2.2 Leave of Absence

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Rosnah **PAL**

Cr Vincent **SAW**

2.3 Apologies

CEO

Manager Finance & Administration

Manager Community Services

Governance, Research, Policy & Grants Officer

Kelvin **MATTHEWS**

So Hon **GAN**

Boon Beng **CHEW**

Chris **SU**

2.4 Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Playground Equipment at Taman Sweetland - Leonard **STAPP** asked can Council commit to the construction of children's playground equipment at Taman Sweetland Park.

Terry **CLARKE**, Manager of Work and Services (MWS) advised he will bring this item to the attention of the Director of the IOTA for consideration at their next meeting.

Gordon **THOMSON**, Shire President, informed Leonard **STAPP** that the Shire of Christmas Island does not have a budget for playground equipment. Terry **CLARKE**, MWS will be meeting the Director of the IOTA regarding the renewal of existing playground equipment and identification of new areas for playground equipment.

- 4.2 Increase to Virgin Airfare - Cr Nora **KOH** presented concerns from community members regarding the unsatisfactory food services provided by Virgin Airline after a noted increase to airfares and asked can the Council write to the Commonwealth.
- Councillors agreed that the CEO write to the Commonwealth.
- 4.3 Submarine at Christmas Island - Cr Nora **KOH** presented concerns from the community with regard to why is there a submarine here at Christmas Island.
- Shire President replied that it is a research vessel.
- Ms. Tanja SCHONEWALD from the gallery explained that the submarine vessel is part of an Australian and USA joint research study into atmospheric propagation in tropical conditions.
- 4.4 Dry leaf piles in drains - Cr Nora **KOH** advised that the dry leaf piles seen in drains need to be removed before the rainy / wet season starts to prevent drain blockages.
- The MWS explained that Council has a work program to address the matter and it is a regular part of their work.
- 4.5 Playground Equipment – Cr Nora **KOH** requested that Council identify playground equipment that needs to be maintained and repaired.
- Shire President informed Cr **KOH** that MWS has identified playground equipment that needs to be replaced and/or repaired and will be meeting the Director of the IOTA regarding replacing and renewal of playground equipment plus also the placing of new equipment at new locations.
- 4.6 Sulo Bin – Cr Azmi **YON** requests Council to inspect and replace sulo bins that are cracked and broken.
- Colin **WHEADON**, Manager of Planning Building & Health (MPBH) informed Cr YON that Council staffs do mark sulo bins that are found in to be in bad condition and that same will be replaced. MPBH advised that community residents can also advise Council if they have a damaged/defective bin that needs to be replaced.
- 4.7 Bus Stop at Kampong – Cr Azmi **YON** asked who made the decision to have funding for school traffic management stopped regards children safely crossing the road to bus stops in the mornings.
- Shire President replied that this is Commonwealth responsibility and Council can make a recommendation to the Commonwealth.
- Cr **YON** asked is there any other action that can be taken.
- Shire President replied that the Council can write to the school requesting the bus monitor have a sign made available to them for use at the crossings at pick up and drop off times.
- Cr **YON** also advised would like to see a guard rail installed to the potentially unsafe seawall area behind the Kampong bus stop.
- 4.8 Solar Light – Cr Nora **KOH** asked what is the outcome of her previous request to install solar lighting on the way to airport.
- Shire President replied that it is the Council responsibility to identify areas to install street lighting and the Commonwealth Government has responsibility to install the street lights. The Council will approach the Commonwealth again regarding this matter.
- 4.9 Correspondence from CIDHS Student – The Shire President has received correspondence from Christmas Island District High School student regarding the following requests and questions:-

- a. More trees, play equipment and a water fountain at Swing Park, Silver City

The Shire President advised he will reply to students and advise that MWS have started formulating a tree plan for parks.

- b. Lack of Facilities at Prickle Park, Silver City
- c. Rubbish crisis on Christmas Island
- d. Having Recycling Bins on Christmas Island
- e. Cigarette butts issue and cigarette bins around Christmas Island
- f. Over flowing of Christmas Island Landfill and Recycling of Aluminium Cans

The Shire President advised he will inform students regards the issues of the Council Waste Management including its current request for funds to purchase a trommel and further, what to do with the recyclable waste.

MPBH advised the cost of shipping many recyclable wastes to the mainland is cost prohibitive, other wastes have quarantine implications or others like tyres are prohibited, items inclusive of the more valuable metals like copper, brass, lead and aluminium are a good starting point.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5.1 Cr Masli & Cr Pal – Leave of Absence

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr KOH

Res. No 104/15

That the leave of absence application submitted by Cr Hafiz MASLI (27/10/15 to 3/11/15) and Cr Rosnah PAL (27/10/15 to 3/11/15) be approved.

Carried: 6/0

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Tanja **SCHONEWALD** provided a presentation to the Shire of Christmas Island regarding Indian Ocean Territories Health Service Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS). Refer to attached presentation by Tanja **SCHONEWALD**.

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

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 September 2015

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr WOO

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 105/15

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held on 22 September 2015 at the George Fam Chambers be adopted.

Carried: 6 /0

7.2 **Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 13 October 2015**

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution
Moved: Cr YON Seconded: Cr WOO Res. No: 106/15
The minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held on 13 October 2015 at the George Fam Chambers be adopted.
Carried: 6 / 0

7.3 **Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 19 October 2015**

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution
Moved: Cr YON Seconded: Cr LEE Res. No: 107/15
The minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held on 19 October 2015 at the George Fam Chambers be adopted.
Carried: 6 / 0

7.4 **Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings**

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.1 Shire President Gordon **THOMSON** provided a briefing on his meeting with the Minister of Immigration, Hon Peter **DUTTON** on Thursday 8th October 2015 to discuss the future of the Christmas Island Phosphate Hill Detention Centre infrastructure, the principle and practices of bringing people to be detained under section 501 and the Commonwealth plans for the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) which is affecting the economy. A letter was presented to the Minister regarding the CI Planning forum.

8.2 Shire President expressed his appreciation on the good work from Parks and Garden staff on the Tree Planting Plan.

8.3 A public campaign is being undertaken to have the Unknown Sailor returned to Christmas Island and reinterred in an appropriately marked grave site.

Supported and agreed by Council.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meetings

Council Resolution
Moved: Cr LEE Seconded: Cr KOH Res. No: 108/15
That the Confirmed Minutes of the Community Consultative Committee meetings held on 1 July 2015, 19 August 2015, 9 September and Unconfirmed Minutes of 7 October 2015 be received.
Carried: 6 / 0

9.2 Community Welfare Fund Management Committee

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 109/15

That the Confirmed Minutes of the Community Welfare Fund Management Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2015 and the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Community Welfare Fund Management Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2015 be received.

Carried: 6 / 0

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Lease of 23 Seaview Drive House Silver City

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr WOO

Res. No: 110/15

That Council -

1. Offer for lease the property located at 23 Seaview Drive Silver City for a six month period at a rental commencing at \$400.00 per week to Mr Jason Turl and,
2. Approve the Shire President and CEO to sign the final Lease under the Common Seal of the Shire of Christmas Island.

Carried: 6 / 0

10.1.2 WALGA Kimberley Zone Delegate

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr KOH

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 111/15

That Council nominates the Shire President and proxy (Deputy Shire President) as its delegate to the West Australian Local Government Association Kimberley Zone.

Carried: 6 / 0

10.1.3 Review of Council Committees

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 112/15

That Council resolves to appoint councillors to the following Committee's:

1. Community Consultative Committee

- a) Retain the Community Consultative Committee with the functions, membership and powers as established and shown in Attachment 1.*
- b) Appoint Cr **MASLI**, Cr **LEE** and Cr **THOMSON** as the Councillor representatives on the Community Consultative Committee. *
- c) Invite nominations for a serving representative from the member organisations of the Community Consultative Committee.

2. Community Welfare Fund Management Committee

- a) Retain the Community Welfare Fund Management Committee with the functions, membership and powers as established and shown in Attachment 1.*
- b) Appoint Cr **YON** and Cr **KOH** as the Councillor representatives on the Community Welfare Fund Management Committee.*

3. *The Islander* Editorial Group

- a) Appoint the Shire President and Cr **YON** as Councillor representatives on *The Islander* Editorial Group.

4. Cemeteries Management Reference Group

- a) Appoint Cr **LEE**, Cr **MASLI** and Cr **SAW** as the Councillor representatives on the Cemeteries Management Reference Group.
- b) Invite nominations for a serving representative from the member organisations of the Cemeteries Management Reference Group.

5. Community Cultural Planning & Heritage Reference Group

- a) Appoint Cr **KOH** and Cr **PAL** as the Councillor representative on the Cultural Planning & Heritage Committee

6. Transport, Land and Communications Committee

- a) Retain the powers and functions as prescribed by section 5.10 of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995, and
- b) Appoint Shire President **THOMSON**, Cr **LEE**, Cr **MASLI**, the Chief Executive Officer, the Manager Works and Services and the Manager Planning, Building and Health as Councillor and staff representatives in accordance with section 5.9 of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995*.

7. Audit Committee

- a) That all current councillors be appointed to the Audit Committee in accordance with section 7.1A of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995.*
- b) Retain the powers and functions as prescribed by section 7.1A of the Local Government Act (CI) 1995 and,
- c) That the Manager Finance and Administration attend the Audit Committee meetings in the capacity as ex – officio.

8. Retain the Senior Citizens Centre Advisory Committee with the functions, membership and powers as established and shown in Attachment 1.

- a) Appoint Cr **FOO** and Manager of Community Services as the Council representatives on the Senior Citizens Centre Advisory Committee. *
- b) Invite nominations for serving representative from the member organisation of the Christmas Island Seniors Association.

Carried: 6 / 0

10.1.4 2015/16 Christmas and New Year Closure

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr KOH

Res. No: 113/15

That the Shire office and depot close for the Christmas/New Year period from noon on Thursday 24 December 2015 to Friday 1 January 2016 inclusive.

Carried: 6 / 0

10.1.5 Annual Report 2014/15

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr FOO	Res. No: 114/15
1. The Shire of Christmas Island Annual Report for 2014/15 is accepted.		
2. An Elector's General Meeting is held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 commencing at 6.30pm for the purpose prescribed by the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) (CI).		
3. The Chief Executive Officer is to give notice of the Elector's Meeting and to ensure that statutory requirements regarding the acceptance of the Annual Report 2014/15 are met.		
Carried: 6 / 0		

10.2 Manager Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – September 2015

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr FOO	Seconded: Cr WOO	Res. No: 115/15
That Council approves the expenditure as presented in September 2015 Schedule of Accounts.		
Carried: 6 / 0		

10.2.2 Financial Statements – September 2015

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr KOH	Seconded: Cr YON	Res. No: 116/15
That Council receives the Financial Statements of the 30 September 2015 for the Municipal Fund.		
Carried: 6 / 0		

10.2.3 Outstanding Rates/Debtors Report 30 September 2015

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr FOO	Seconded: Cr LEE	Res. No: 117/15
That the report is noted.		
Carried: 6 / 0		

10.3 Manager Community Services

10.3.1 Community Welfare Fund Update

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr LEE	Res. No: 118/15
The Community Welfare Fund Disbursement/Contribution Update as presented is received.		
Carried: 6 / 0		

10.3.2 Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards 2016

Council Resolution**Moved: Cr YON****Seconded: Cr LEE****Res. No: 119/15**

1. That Council endorse to continue support of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards 2016
2. That Council invite nominations for the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards for 2016.
3. That Council endorses the establishment of a Judging Panel comprising of Cr **WOO**, Cr **YON** and Cr **MASLI** and the Chief Executive Officer.

Carried: 6 / 0**10.4 Manager Works & Services****10.5 Manager Planning, Building & Health****10.6 Manager Recreation Services****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 by decision of the meeting****Council Resolution****Moved: Cr YON****Seconded: Cr WOO****Res. No: 120/15**

Motion to accept new late items from the Transport, Land and Communication Committee (TLCC) meeting held on 27th October 2015 and from Ms Tania Schonewald on behalf of Ms Robyn Stephenson regarding the Indian Ocean Territories Health Services Patient Assistance Travel (PATS) scheme.

Carried: 6 / 0**12.2 Transport, Land and Communication Committee****Council Resolution****Moved: Cr YON****Seconded: Cr WOO****Res. No: 121/15**

Council endorse the resolution 8.4.1 of the Transport, Land and Communication Committee (TLCC) meeting held on 27th October 2015 regarding use of Community Bus.

Carried: 6 / 0**12.3 Indian Ocean Territories Health Services Patient Assistance Travel (PATS) Scheme****Council Resolution****Moved: Cr YON****Seconded: Cr KOH****Res. No: 122/15**

Having heard the presentation on the IOTHS Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) delivered by Ms Tanja Schonewald on behalf of Ms Robyn Stephenson, Council resolves the following:

1. Council calls on the Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects, the Honourable Paul Fletcher MP (the Minister) to terminate his Department officers' responsibility for determining the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service's Patient Assisted Travel Scheme

and require the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to immediately implement the WA Patient Assisted Travel Scheme; and in particular ensure the PATS is applied so as to provide travel and accommodation assistance to all cancer patients on all occasions when prescribed treatment is required in Perth.

2. The Minister's attention is drawn to the terms of reference of successive Commonwealth Grants Commission inquiries into the Commonwealth's funding arrangements for the provision of State-type services to the Indian Ocean Territories. In particular the Minister is referred to that term of reference, oft repeated, which requires the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC) to examine funding arrangements required by reference to a "comparable remote community in the State of Western Australia". This particular term of reference is generally referred to as the parity with WA principle and it is the parity principle that is supposed to be the yard-stick and guideline followed by the Territories Branch of the Commonwealth Department in budgeting for and delivering State-type services to the Indian Ocean Territories.
3. We call upon the Minister to publicly state his recognition of the failures of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to honour the Commonwealth's obligation to provide State-type services at a level equal to services provided to a "comparable remote community in WA". Other failures include failure to provide funding for roads, aged care and disability services and the timely completion of Service Delivery Arrangements (SDAs) such as the fire and emergency services SDA.
4. We call upon the Minister to take action to ensure the cessation of these failures of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development; and to ensure redress is promptly administered for individuals and organisations injured by these failures of the Department's Territories Branch.
5. The Member for Lingiari, Honourable Warren Snowdon MP and Senator for the Northern Territory, Senator Nova Peris AO, are requested to assist Council to achieve the objectives of this resolution on the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service Patient Assisted Travel Scheme.
6. The Minister is requested to place the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) under the authority of a statutory board comprised of persons nominated by the communities of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands and appointed by the Minister.

Carried: 6 / 0

13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 9.05pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 24th November 2015