



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 19 March 2024



**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 19 March 2024

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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 19 March 2024

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 Philip **WOO**

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**

Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

Cr Steve **PEREIRA**

Cr Swee **TUNG**

Chief Executive Officer

Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker

Director Works, Services & Waste

David **PRICE**

Chris **SU**

Troy **DAVIS**

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

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Cr PEREIRA raised a query about seating at the CI Cinema. Noted that there is bench seating that had been tagged out for some time and said that an update on their status would be welcome.

CEO David PRICE advises that the CI Cinema Club has been engaged with; SOCI had performed some repairs and maintenance in recent months.

CEO David PRICE advised that SOCI can meet with cinema committee and report back to Council.

Cr PEREIRA stated that seating had been removed without being replaced. Danger tape had been put up at one stage, but it is missing and needs replacement.

CEO David PRICE advised he will report back at the next council meeting.

- 4.2 Cr PEREIRA raised poultry control in the residential areas on behalf of community members. Cr PEREIRA put that it had been a growing issue for some time affecting the quality of life in the township in some areas.

CEO David PRICE informed the council that the Ranger and additional personnel had been assigned to remove roosters in the township as an immediate priority recently.

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised that 20 additional cage traps had been ordered, and would be arriving on the next ship. Noted that on occasion it seemed that people had been releasing chickens from these traps.

CEO David PRICE informed the meeting that SOCI is engaging with Parks Australia on a wider control program for pockets of poultry population in the township. Areas such as the cemetery was identified as priority control area.

Shire PRESIDENT Gordon THOMSON acknowledged that the poultry population seemed to have been increasing, with other residents observing chickens at national parks locales such as the blowholes and Dales areas.

Cr Melissa TUNG observed that the Poon Saan retail precinct has an undesirable population of poultry that had begun to establish itself. This population was overly familiar with human interaction.

CEO David PRICE to provide an update.

- 4.3 Cr PEREIRA asked if the Lily Beach shelter was to have lighting inside the shelter?

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised that 3 photo-voltaic motion controlled lights had been installed in recent weeks. Will follow up to see if they are functioning.

- 4.4 Cr PEREIRA reported on community feedback around the cleaning of storm drains in the aftermath of the storm front earlier in the month. Raised that the drainage at bottom of Phosphate Hill road had accumulated during the recent storm.

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised that the works team were currently completing storm drainage works. CEO David PRICE advised that the tractor needed for the work had just been repaired and has since been deployed for this and other needed works.

- 4.5 Cr PEREIRA asked if the bbq pit area in the Flying Fish Cove precinct fell under Council or Administration responsibility? Director for Works and Services Troy DAVIS and CEO David PRICE advised that the Flying Fish Cove precinct fell under Administration's responsibility.

- 4.6 Cr PEREIRA reported feedback received from community members about an apparent lack of visibility of Shire workers assisting; reported that when a community member asked SOCI about assistance the morning of Monday March 11th, the response received was that SOCI didn't have the manpower at that point. Requested to understand what was SOCI's commitment to manpower in these kind of events?

Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised that the Shire works and services team were present on the storm day of Monday 11th March; he was there as well witnessing the sandbagging efforts SOCI manpower assisted with.

Director of Works and Services TROY DAVIS advised the meeting that the Administration / PRL / SOCI / AFP were in constant contact throughout the day regarding co-ordinating responses. Director Troy DAVIS advised that the AFP had requested as a priority that SOCI ensure branches were made safe on the road to Ethel Beach to ensure that emergency boat launches could still be done. This occurred on the morning of March 11th 2024. At this task was completed during the day, members of the SOCI works team were then deployed to the Flying Fish Cove precinct to assist in sandbagging and other duties in the afternoon.

Director Troy DAVIS reported a lack of co-ordination in the preparation to and day of the storm strike itself.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON restated that the AFP had directed SOCI to deploy its assets and manpower early on Monday 11th March to ensure the emergency boat launch capability at Ethel Beach could continue to be accessible at this time.

Shire CEO David PRICE put that the deployment of Shire human resources later in the day to Flying Fish Cove when the sand and bags were made available onsite was more optimal than deploying staff earlier in the day when the resources were not there.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON noted that the Emergency Management Committee was convened after 4pm on Monday 11th March which was after the sandbagging was completed; this meant that the sandbagging was not an action of EMC co-ordination, but the outcome of different groups on the island from the private and public sectors reactively self-coordinating. Councillors noted that reactive self-coordinating between groups as a response an unfolding event was not optimal. The meeting noted that strategic pre-coordination prior to an event is needed to ensure all parties plan appropriately for resource and manpower allocation with agreed lines of responsibility for delivery of actions in specific sequence. This did not occur.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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 6 February 2024

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr TUNG

Res. No: 8/24

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 6 February 2024 Council Meeting.

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
	Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
	Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON

Against:

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.1 Shire President Gordon THOMSON noted that the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met on March 11th and received a presentation from community representatives around cat local laws and the enforcement thereof.

The CCC also received a visit from the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HADSCO) and WA Seniors Card (WASC). HADSCO and WASC had a successful visit, a write up in the Islander will follow this week summarising the work done with seniors.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 2024 ALGA Conference

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr WOO **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 9/24**

That Council –

1. Confirm registration to attend the 2024 Australian Local Government Association National Assembly conference scheduled for 2 to 4 July 2024 in Canberra,
2. Nominates the Shire President, the CEO and Councillors YON and LEE to attend the conference for the purpose of registration, travel and accommodation arrangements,
3. Advise the CEO of any Motions by 29 March 2024 that Council may want to have included in the Conference Agenda Papers and,
4. Confirm Cr YON as voting delegate and Cr LEE as the proxy delegate for the conference.

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
	Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
	Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON

Against:

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – February 2024

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 10/24**

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in February 2024 Schedule of Accounts

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
	Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
	Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON

Against:

10.2.2 Financial Statements – January & February 2024

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr MASLI** **Res. No: 11/24**

That Council receives the Financial Statements of January and February 2024 for the Municipal Fund.

Carried: 9/0

For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
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Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON
Against:		

10.2.3 Christmas Island – Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2023

Council Resolution			
Moved: Cr LEE	Seconded: Cr SAW	Res. No:	12/24
Audit Committee review the Christmas Island-Compliance Audit Return (CAR) 2023 and present to council for adoption.			
Carried:	9/0		
For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
	Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
	Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON
Against:			

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

10.4.1 Direct Purchase Report

Council Resolution			
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr FOO	Res. No:	13/24
Council receives the Direct Purchase Report from the Director of Works, Services and Waste.			
Carried:	9/0		
For:	Cr THOMSON	Cr FOO	Cr TUNG
	Cr SAW	Cr LEE	Cr PEREIRA
	Cr WOO	Cr MASLI	Cr YON
Against:			

10.5 Director Planning, Governance & Policy

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 7.35pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 23 April 2024