



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 19 November 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 November 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 November 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 Kee Heng **FOO**

Cr Philip **WOO**

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**

Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**

Cr Steve **PEREIRA** (7.10pm)

Cr Swee **TUNG**

Chief Executive Officer

Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker

Director Community/Recreation Services

Assistant Director of Corporate Services & Finance

David **PRICE**

Chris **SU**

Olivier **LINES**

Wei **HO**

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 Patricia POWER of 28b Gaze Road acknowledged the Council workers conducting the pre-cyclone clean up collections this month. They were thorough in the collection of disposables that were not at the verge as required, but visible as cyclone pick-up waste within her boundaries.

Patricia POWER read the following question to council (please see attached addendum)

My question to the Shire is in relation to the Red crab migration.

Several years ago, I approached Council to request an increase with the management of migrating Red crabs on Shire-controlled roads.

For a couple of seasons, the increased number of Shire employees and volunteers in certain sections resulted in far less carnage, noticeably along lower Murray Rd and the Roundabout area.

At the beginning of the current migration there was a fantastic effort by Parks, the Shire, and volunteers, to manage the crabs, particularly at Drumsite.

That fantastic effort resulted in more crabs crossing Murray Rd below the Shire offices, and at the Roundabout precinct. With no management in place, the number of carnage splotches in these areas is again quite distressing.

My question to Council therefore is:

During the Red Crab migration, would Council consider placing mobile speed limit signs initially at the top of Murray Rd at Old Tech School, and at the Roundabout, with further sites to be determined, as more signs are purchased?

The days and times could be arranged in consultation with Parks.

*Patricia Power
28D Gaze Road
Christmas Island 6798
19 Nov 2024*

The Shire President Gordon THOMSON responded that the CEO will raise this with the Director for Works and Services Troy DAVIS.

7.10pm Cr Steven PEREIRA arrives.

- 4.2 Cr Melissa TUNG requested if Council could erect a shade sail at the Tong Yang Loh playground.

CEO David PRICE advised he will examine and return to Council.

- 4.3 Cr Melissa TUNG requested to know if the public had the opportunity to shape the Territory Week Festival for next year?

CEO David PRICE advised that residents can speak to Director for Community Services Olivier LINES.

- 4.4 Cr Azmi YON passed on residents' positive feedback about the 2024 Territory Week Festival and congratulated Director Oliver LINES and the Depot and Community Services teams involved.

- 4.5 Cr Steven PEREIRA raised a query around parking on Gaze Road in the vicinity between the Settlement Sports Hall and the Foreshore Padang.

Cr PEREIRA requested to know if there were any specific regulations in place for parking in that area? Advised that multiple accidents have occurred on Gaze Road in the past in this vicinity and that if residents in the area utilised the parking bays on Gaze Road, instead of parallel street parking, then fewer may have occurred.

CEO David PRICE advised that Council has historically instructed residents to park their boats not on Gaze Road, but in the marked parking bays adjacent to the old cinema projector room, and the old film storage room.

President Gordon THOMSON informed the meeting that residents in the area were advised to park their boats in the designated area.

Informed the meeting that there is no by-law restricting people from parallel parking on Gaze Road in that vicinity. Community consultation would be required to had before Council could develop a parking by-law for that area.

Cr Steven PEREIRA requested if residents could park within a designated parking area? CEO David PRICE advised that there is no way to determine if people parking in a designated parking area would be visitors or residents to the area.

CEO David PRICE advised that he will return to Council after consulting with Main Roads WA and the Director for Works and Services Troy DAVIS.

- 4.6 Cr PEREIRA acknowledged the work of community members Tracey KREPP and Douglas SCOTT in erecting the Christmas lights at the roundabout on the Monday night.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised the meeting that a long-term local senior had passed away in the time between Council meetings, Mr SAW Seang Keat. A minute of silence was observed.

Meeting raised and observed silence.

7.13pm - 7.14pm

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 October 2024

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr FOO

Res. No: 79/24

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 22 October 2024 Council Meeting.

Carried: 7/2

For -

Cr THOMSON
Cr YON
Cr LEE
Cr SAW
Cr FOO
Cr WOO
Cr MASLI

Against -

Cr PEREIRA
Cr TUNG

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Shire President Gordon THOMSON informs the meeting that he has a matter for discussion pertaining to item 4.3 of the 22nd October 2024 Council Meeting regarding the Shire of CI

Vehicle Policy and Shire contractors at the Golden Bosun Tavern and Restaurant. Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised that the CEO David PRICE had investigated the matter as per the action item of the meeting.

Cr Gordon THOMSON read out a letter addressed to him as Shire President from Dean BENNETT of All Seasons, the Shire contractors whom CEO David PRICE was requested to engage with in item 4.3 of the 22nd October 2024 Council Meeting.

*Gordon Thomson
Shire President
Shire of Christmas Island 6798*

Dear Shire President

My name is Dean Bennett, I am a contractor with All Seasons together with Dylan Bennett and Cruz-Santana Broughton. We have been engaged by the Shire to lay the artificial turf at the Foreshore Padang.

We arrived on Friday 18th October and were met by the CEO David Price who showed us our accommodation at the CI Apartments and allocated us Shire Vehicle CI 2195 for our use while on Christmas Island.

On Saturday 19th October 2024 we visited the Golden Bosun for dinner and left about 8.30pm. On the morning of Wednesday 23rd October 2024 the CEO David Price raised with us that at the Council Meeting held 22nd October 2024 Councillor Pereira had raised that he had photographed us leaving the Golden Bosun at about 8.30pm and that we had been consuming alcohol and had driven off in the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

We advised the CEO that there were was a designated driver that night (Cruz-Santana Broughton) who only consumed cokes while we were at the Bosun.

*It is very concerning to us that a councillor for the Shire of Christmas Island would make such allegations without any attempt to determine the truth and to invade our privacy by secretly taking photos of us leaving and driving away, and to then raise it in a public environment at the council meeting held 22 October 2024 and make unfounded and disparaging assumptions that us leaving the Bosun in a Shire was **not a good look**.*

That unfounded accusation was not only to each of us but also the company we work for, as employees of All Seasons we take seriously our obligations in carrying out our work on behalf of All Seasons.

I am seeking that Councillor Pereira withdraw those unfounded comments made at the Council meeting held 22 October and to publicly apologise to us an All Seasons for any harm caused by his unfounded comments and allegations.

Yours Sincerely

*Dean Bennett
28/10/2024*

Shire President Gordon THOMSON advises that he has no power or authority to request anyone to make an apology. This letter will be included into the minutes for the meeting and will be available to Councillors from the CEO.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON requested that Councillors stay mindful that Council Meetings are a place for community wide matters and not a forum for public shaming of individuals, including those who had been engaged to work on Christmas Island.

Cr Gordon THOMSON raised his concern about vendors and contractors becoming apprehensive to work with the Shire as a result of incidents such as this.

Cr Gordon THOMSON reinforced that he has no power in the council forum to compel anyone to apologise. Cr Gordon THOMSON invited Cr Steven PEREIRA to give it careful consideration to do so.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Dates for Ordinary Council Meetings 2025

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 80/24

That Council adopts the following schedule of Ordinary Meetings for 2025 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:

- February 2025 Ordinary Meeting due to the long period of no meetings between 10 December 2024 and 4 February 2025.
- The June 2025 Ordinary Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday. As the 2025 ALGA National Assembly is likely to be schedules the week beginning Monday 23rd June and holding the June Ordinary Meeting on the 17th June will enable those Councillors attending the 2025 ALGA National Assembly to also attend the June Ordinary Meeting.
- The December 2025 Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for the 9th December 2025 being the 2nd Tuesday due to the Christmas close down period in December 2025.

4 February 2025

18 March 2025

26 August 2025

22 April 2025

23 September 2025

27 May 2025

21 October 2025

17 June 2025

18 November 2025

22 July 2025

9 December 2025

Carried: 9/0

For -

Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr LEE

Cr YON

Cr TUNG

Cr SAW

Cr FOO

Cr WOO

Cr MASLI

Against -

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts – October 2024

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 81/24

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

Carried: 9/0

For -

Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr LEE

Cr YON

Cr TUNG

Cr SAW

Cr FOO

Cr WOO

Cr MASLI

Against -

10.2.2 Financial Statements – October 2024

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 82/24

That Council receives the Financial Statements of October 2024 for the Municipal Fund.

Carried: 9/0

For -

Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr LEE

Cr YON

Cr TUNG

Cr SAW

Cr FOO

Cr WOO

Cr MASLI

Against -

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

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

13.1 Motion to close the meeting

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr SAW

Seconded: Cr WOO

Res. No: 83/24

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: 9/0

For -

Cr THOMSON

Cr PEREIRA

Cr LEE

Cr YON

Cr TUNG

Cr SAW

Cr FOO

Cr WOO

Cr MASLI

Against -

13.2 2024 CEO Performance Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: /24

Council receives and endorses the 2023-2024 Performance appraisal assessment report 13.1.1

Carried: _/_

For

Against

13.3 Procedural Motion

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 84/24

That the motion be put to a vote.

Carried: 7/2

For -

Cr THOMSON

Cr LEE

Cr MASLI

Cr YON

Cr SAW

Cr FOO

Cr WOO

Against -

Cr TUNG

Cr PEREIRA

13.4 2024 CEO Performance Review Vote

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr SAW	Res. No: 85/24
Council receives and endorses the 2023-2024 Performance appraisal assessment report 13.1.1		
Carried: 7/2		
For -		
Cr THOMSON	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI
Cr YON	Cr SAW	
Cr FOO	Cr WOO	
Against -		
Cr TUNG	Cr PEREIRA	

13.5 Meeting reopens to the public

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr SAW	Res. No: 86/24
That the meeting reopens to the public		
Carried: 9/0		
For -		
Cr THOMSON	Cr LEE	Cr MASLI
Cr YON	Cr SAW	Cr PEREIRA
Cr FOO	Cr WOO	Cr TUNG
Against -		

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 7.40 pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 10 December 2024