



Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council

MINUTES OF NPARC ORDINARY MEETING Seisia Enterprise Office – Chambers

Notification Date: Tuesday 11th January 2011
Meeting Date Tuesday 8th February 2011
Meeting Location NPARC Office – Seisia
Time 9:00am
Catering Morning Tea and Lunch will be provided

Mayor and Councillors

Cr Joseph Elu	(Mayor)
Cr Gina Nona	(Division 1)
Cr Peter Lui	(Division 2)
Cr Reg Williams	(Division 3)
Cr Michael Bond	(Division 4)
Cr Jeffrey Aniba	(Division 5)

CEO	Stuart Duncan
Deputy CEO	Danny Sebasio
Secretary	Esme Newman

Welcome and Declare Meeting Open – Mayor

- Apologies
Cr. Williams
- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
Nil
- Declaration of Material Interests
Nil

AGENDA

Agenda Item (1) – 10:00am Minutes of previous meeting of Tuesday 11th January

Correction to Agenda item 7 – Director of Community Services report . Cr Lui raised the issue about cleaning and not Cr Williams.

Cr. Lui - I raise the issue of the cleaning, security and general management of the sport & Recreation facilities within the NPA. The facilities are not being cleaned when functions finish and therefore they are not ready for the next event / function.

*Action to arrange a meeting with Engineering Services, Community Services and Cr. Lui

Recommendation:

It is resolved that the Minutes of the previous NPARC meeting held on the 11th January 2011, be accepted true and correct

Moved: Cr Lui

Seconded: Cr Aniba

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 1 – 08.02.2011

Morning Tea – 10:23 – 10:50am

NOTE – The meeting agenda was modified to allow the Engineering Services report to be bought forward

Agenda Item (3) Director of Engineering (9:18am)

Jim Foody joined the meeting at 9:18am

1. Question from the previous meeting minutes – LDMG Our disaster management plan is being advanced with some targeted training scheduled for next month. The Plan has been drafted with the issue of indentifying the executive yet to be completed

2.

*Action – A copy of the draft NPA LDMG to be tabled at the next meeting.

Cr. Elu – as with the mock disaster at the airstrip last year – the officer in charge (State Police) will be the first to be contacted and will take control and direct the other services – i.e. Rural Fire and Queensland Health and the like.

3. Pre Wet season clean-up – When we went to apply our pre-wet season services we found that we needed to repair all of the ride-on mowers (7). We now have a new supplier for parts but the issues of the current mowers are an ongoing problem. We need more funding to replace the existing ride-on mowers to purchase a make that is more robust

Cr. Elu – one of the issues is that council is letting the grass grow too long and then expecting light machines to get the job done.

Cr. Bond – Are the operators trained properly and do they inspect the area to be mowed.

Jim Foody – They are trained but there is still an issue of laziness within the workgroup to fully inspect the area to be mowed.

Jim Foody – we have changed the way that we do ground-keeping in the NPA with much larger strike-teams to attack each community at one time and we will progress / enhance the management of the new arrangements

Cr Lui – The hall at Umagico is not being cleaned and at times there are large amounts of water on the floor which I have cleaned myself. The doors are not locked or lockable and need to be painted to a suitable standard.

Cr. Nona – Can we have a look at the management of the cemeteries as well – to often we find the cemetery in poor condition only days before a funeral

4. Seisia Wharf - Cr. Elu what happened at the Main Roads / Council Wharf meeting.

Jim Foody - The meeting identified that the wharf cannot safely handle all of the traffic and we need to separate the Commercial and Private marine activities, we also need to come to an agreement with Seaswift on WH&S issues.

5. Cr. Aniba we need to establish an incident log for all issues so Council can defend its position and submission for appropriate funding.

Jim Foody – there is already an incident log that Council monitors

New Mapoon All Abilities Playground

The Council has now assumed responsibility for this project from the Centre of Appropriate Technology (CAT). It is currently proposed that Black & More Engineering Services of Cairns project manage the All Abilities Playground project for Council with RPS of Cairns producing the Land-Scaping Plans. The construction phase of the Project will commence at the end of the wet-season 2011.

Cr. Bond – Council need to ensure that the Project Steering Committee is kept fully informed about the planning around this project.

Injinoo Sport Ground

Cr. Nona – Can I get more information on the CDEP projects intended to be delivered as part of the Injinoo Sport field and supporting facilities.

NOTE - Cr. Bond excused himself from the meeting at 10:17

Resolution: That Council accept the report from the Director of Engineering Services Moved: Cr Nona Seconded: Cr Aniba Carried: 4/0
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Agenda Item (2) CEO Report

Finances

The CEO reported the state of general finances to Council making particular reference to the lack of Cash on-hand to meet all of council current grant commitments. While the current 'general expenditure' of Council is maintaining an alignment with Councils budget, more needs to be done to set a solid direction toward closing the negative funding gap created by the unfunded cost of the restructure activities and the changes to CDEP.

Council is maintaining the current cost reduction controls including

- Recruitment Freeze
- No overtime
- The NPA Annual Show reduced to every two years
- A two year freeze on the negotiation of the NPARC Employee Certified Agreement
- Only providing only core Local Government services
- Reviewing current enterprise arrangements to ensure these agreements are not going to be an ongoing expense for council, and
- Developing new enterprise and asset lease opportunities

The Queensland Government Code of Practice will end on the 15th of March 2011. This will enable Council to begin dealing with a number of non-essential positions. The exact number of "excess positions" will be presented in a report to Council March 2011. I can announce that an analysis of the payroll master-file indicates that we are achieving a reduction in employee numbers through redeployment of staff from non-essential positions into essential roles which is providing overall relief on Councils wage costs. With Redeployment, natural attrition and terminations we have reduced the wages costs by \$900k in the last 5 months.

My focus during February and through March will be to complete the NPARC financial sustainability review report to Queensland Treasury Corporation. This financial model will provide Council with a roadmap to the financial future, and will provide Council with the data to develop the strategies that will be necessary for a sustainable financial recovery.

Another activity Councils finance unit is to complete a very detailed 'Grants by Project note report' to clearly indentify all of councils current liabilities both in terms of project outcomes and project cash reserve.

It is clear that the opportunity for the NPARC to recover the restructure costs from the State Government are very limited in-light of the recent floods and cyclone damage, this coupled with the Federal Government reluctance to properly fund there changes to CDEP is now having a very serious affect on councils cash reserve.

It will be necessary for Council to urgently approach the QTC for a bridging loan.

Once the full quantum of councils unfunded debt (this includes all of Councils non-essential employment positions) and special purpose grant liabilities are known and incorporated into a new and sustainable budget forecast. An application for a loan will be made through the Department of Local Government and Planning to the Queensland Treasury Corporation as soon as we have the supporting documentation and reports completed.

Land Leases

Cr. Lui – can the Alau enterprises that are earmarked for divestment be leased to an individual?

CEO – Leases may be granted in favour of an Aboriginal person without the need to obtain Ministerial consent if it is for private residential purposes (for a term of 99 years), but I would need to investigate the legal matters around commercial matters and other considerations to be made with respect to the Alau enterprises; including former resolution of this Council.

Cr. Lui – Where is Council at with progress on Housing and the requirement for the 40 year leases to trigger the ‘new housing program and funding. We need to focus on local employment and local contractors when the opportunity is presented to the NPA through this housing program. We currently have 50 participants ready to attend Cert II in Light Construction.

Mayor Elu – Council is currently in negotiation with the Program Office through the NPARC / Program Office technical working group (TWG) to identify the houses that were constructed prior to 23rd December 1996 where native title has been extinguished. We suspect that there are around 300 houses that we could place under the 40 year lease arrangements, but we must also identify the houses that need to be removed from the Social Housing schedule, and they are

- Council staff houses
- Enterprise houses; and
- Houses that Council or enterprises (through a Council building training program) can restore and rent and/or occupy. These houses would typically be houses identified as “demolition jobs”

Cr Aniba – the trade centre at the school would also be a benefit to the future industry

Resolution: That Council accept the CEO’s report

Moved: Cr Aniba

Seconded: Cr Nona

Carried: 4/0

Resolution

Agenda Item (4) Director of Finance Manager Report

The Finance report was presented and reviewed by the Councillors.

Resolution – That council accept the report from the Director of Finance

Moved: Cr Lui

Seconded: Cr Nona

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 4-08.02.2011

Agenda Item (5) Enterprise Managers Report

The Finance report was presented and reviewed by the Councillors.

Resolution – That council accept the report from the Enterprise Manager

Moved: Cr Aniba

Seconded: Cr Nona

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 5-08.02.11

Lunch 12:08 – 1:16

Agenda Item (6) EEDU Report

- The CDEP utilisation numbers are improving with the introduction of the new training opportunities
- Bamaga farm – The Department of Communities has approved the variation of the LIPA Funding grant to allow the purchase of the NPA farm manager's accommodation. The farm will produce root vegetables, bananas, herbs and the like. The CEOI commented on the need for the right farm manager to manage the daily operations and protect the assets and crops from vandalism and theft.

Cr. Lui - Stage two of the NPA farm project will be planned for the re-development of the Umagico Farm

Resolution – That council accept the report from the Director of the EEDU

Moved: Cr Aniba

Seconded: Cr Nona

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 6-08.02.11

NOTE - Cr. Bond rejoined the meeting at 1:50PM

Agenda Item (7) Director of Community Services Report

The Community Services report was presented and reviewed by the Councillors.

Resolution – That council accept the report from the Director of Community Services

Moved: Cr Lui

Seconded: Cr Nona

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 7-08.02.11

Agenda Item (8) Mail Registers

Resolution – That Council note the inward and outward mail registers

Moved: Cr Nona

Seconded: Cr Lui

Carried: 4/0

Resolution 8-08.02.11

Agenda Item (9) General Business

New Mapoon Community Forum – Council received a letter from the New Mapoon Community Forum requesting that council write letters to tenants of New Mapoon regarding disturbances and loud parties.

Cr. Elu – Council needs to have the tenants report the complaint to the manager of the NPARC office and have the complainant sign the letter. A copy of this letter of complaint can also be sent to the State Police for their records. CEO to draft a notice to all tenants

News Letter No 22 – NPARC News letter 22 was presented to Council for approval - Council will review the letter and provide comments back to the media officer by Friday 5:00PM

Injinoo Community Forum – The Injinoo Community Forum requests an updated housing wait list.

The CEO commented that the current wait list has been sent to the members of the NPA Housing and Land Technical Working Group for validation and review in accordance with the State priorities.

Letter from Balkanu – Cr. Williams contacted the CEO to raise his concerns with regards to the letter from Balkanu which requests a number of projects to be completed in preparation for the proposed Working on Country Ranger workshop to be held in Injinoo in June. Cr. Williams questioned costs of the matters to be addressed by Council including the re-building of the Injinoo public toilet at lookout point. CEO is to write back to Balkanu.

Other Business

1. Cr Aniba – Community Forum by-elections – Councillor Aniba voice his disappointment that the Minister for Local Government did not approve the appointment of the two casual forum members.

Next Meeting 1st of March – New Mapoon

Meeting close 2:26