

**MINUTES OF THE BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT  
COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY**

**25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

**IN THE BELYUEN TRAINING ROOM AT 5PM**

Present: Rex Edmunds Vice President

Cecilia Lewis Councillor

John Moreen Councillor

Rex Sing Councillor

Absent: Zoe Singh President

President Singh advised the CEO on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May that she would be absent from the meeting because she had to attend a funeral at Tiwi and she was flying out Monday afternoon.

1. Meeting Opened

**Vice President Edmunds opened the meeting at 5.22pm**

Vice President Edmunds welcomed Peter Cole Power and Water to the meeting. Peter Cole discussed with the Council work that is going to be carried out at the Power and Water Compound. The work is to upgrade the Disinfection System. Peter Cole explained in detail the infrastructure work that will be carried out along with the new structures to be installed that will provide storage for computer system and chlorine. A crib room (lunch room) and mobile toilet unit will also be installed for the duration of the work being done.

Peter Cole provided the Councillors with information showing pictures of new infrastructure that is to be installed and explained how it is all going to work. The Vice President asked Peter Cole if there could be an opening once everything was completed.

Peter Cole informed Council he would take the request to his boss and let the CEO know.

The Vice President thanked Peter Cole for coming to address Council.  
Peter Cole left the meeting at 6.25pm

Vice President Edmunds welcomed Suzanne Peckham and Joe Brown from the NT Department of Education to the meeting.

Joe Brown discussed with Council the LEaD (Local Engagement and Decision-Making Committee Initiative that is being developed in remote schools throughout the Territory.

Joe Brown commented that the LEaD committee makes decisions for the school in a similar way that Council makes decisions for the Community.

Joe Brown and Suzanne Peckham went through a power point presentation explaining the powers of LEaD and how the Parent Consultative Committees fit into LEaD.

Joe Brown explained that a Four Year Strategic Plan is prepared by the School Committee and he and Suzanne Peckham are going to work with the Parent Committee to update the Plan.

Joe Brown commented that the Parent Committee should be communicating with the Council. Council provides a school nutrition and a culture programme at the school.

Council members commented that they were not aware of LEaD or the School Consultative Committee.

Joe Brown and Suzanne Peckham thanked Council for inviting them to come to the meeting and they would be happy to come back again if Council would like more information about the LEaD programme.

The Vice President thanked Joe Brown and Suzanne Peckham for coming to talk with Council.

They both left the meeting at 7.15pm

Council had a five minute break.

Vice President Edmunds reconvened the meeting at 7.20pm

## 2. Apologies

President Singh attend a funeral at Tiwi

Resolution 2.1.05.20

That Council accepts the reason provided for the President's absence and gives permission for her absence.

Moved: Councillor Moreen

Seconded: Councillor Sing

Carried

## 3. Declaration of Interest of Members of Staff

Per s73 and s4 of the Local Government Act (2008) Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at

a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a Council committee as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the issue which gives rise to the conflict.

There were no Declaration of Interests of members or Staff

#### **4. Confirm Minutes from Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

Documents Tabled: Minutes from the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

##### **Resolution 4.1.05.20**

THAT the Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 are accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Councillor Moreen

Seconded: Councillor Sing

Carried

#### **5. Financial Reports**

Documents Tabled: Monthly Financial Reports for February, March and April 2020

##### **Resolution 5.1.05.20**

That the tabled financial reports for the months of February, March and April 2020 be accepted by Council.

Moved: Councillor Lewis

Seconded: Vice President Edmunds

#### **6. Grant Funding Updates and Acquittals**

Signed Grants

Australian Government Dept of Health CHSP Emergency Support \$16424

To provide extra meals for old people who have been impacted by the Coronavirus

Australian Government Dept of Health Deed of Variation in relation to Home Support 20-21

*Outcome of Pending Grant Applications to Dept of Local Government*

SPG Dump Management and Electrical Upgrades

Note that the 'Belyuen Dump' was identified by Department of Local Government staff late 2019 that it is not in the Belyuen Council Boundary and there fore would not be eligible for a grant.

Infrastructure – oval upgrade

Grant application outcomes for the Electrical Upgrade and the oval relate to Correspondence item 7.10.

CEO advised that Local Government are no longer going ahead with the above grant applications and that this agenda item relates to correspondence item 7.10

Correspondence brought forward

This correspondence is from the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development and relates to a Special Community Assistance and Local Employment (SCALE) Grant offer for 2019 – 2020

The CEO went through the letter from the Minister and explained to Council that the SCALE Programme relates to Councils providing options to commercial businesses in their Council areas that are struggling to pay rates because of loss of income during the CoronaVirus shut down. For Council's to accept this funding they are required to pass a Resolution adopting the "Public Benefit Concessions Policy for Commercial Ratepayers".

The CEO explained to Council that Belyuen does not have any commercial properties or businesses however Council must still adopt the policy for Council to be eligible for the funding.

CEO explained that Council needs to make two Resolutions.

**Resolution 6.1.05.20**

That Council adopts and applies the "Public Benefit Concessions Policy for Commercial Ratepayers".

Moved: Vice President Edmunds

Seconded: Councillor Lewis

Carried

**Resolution 6.2.05.20**

That Council accepts the One off SCALE grant of \$100,0000 noting that Council does not have any Commercial Ratepayers within the Belyuen Council boundaries.

Moved: Councillor Sing

Seconded: Councillor Moreen

Carried

Outstanding applications

IEI – Three year funding for Aged Care Workers – seeking 3 more positions

The CEO advised that Council is seeking three more community Aged Care positions as part of the Indigenous Employment Initiative.

CEO advised that still waiting as to the outcome of this request.

**7. Correspondence**

7.1 Letter to the Dept of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Documents Tabled: Letter to Maree DeLacey A/Deputy Chief Executive Officer requesting that the Department fund the Consultancy Proposal from Cathryn Hutton. Stage 2

Letter from the Dept Of Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

Documents Tabled: Letter of Offer for Stage 2 Consultancy Services

Letter of Acceptance to the Department of Local Government Housing and Community Development

Documents Tabled: Signed Acceptance

Outcome: The Department of Local Government has provided funding for stage two of the Consultancy to develop action plans and budgets for items identified in the Consultancy Review.

Noted.

7.2 Letter from the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics

Document Tabled: Email re Notification of Development Application and requesting any concerns that Council may have in relation to the Tower to be relayed to them as soon as possible.

CEO presented to Council documents in relation to the tower identifying where the tower will be erected and specifications of the tower including a diagram.

Noted.

7.3 Letter from the Department Infrastructure Planning and Logistics

Documents Tabled: Letter re NT Subdivision Development Guidelines

Noted.

7.4 Letter from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Documents Tabled: Letter re New Department CEO, council plans, budgets, rates and council reserves 2020-2021

Noted.

7.5 Letter from Department of Health

Documents Tabled: Letter re Grant Funding Arrangements in relation to COVID-19

Noted.

7.6 Dept of Infrastructure Planning & Logistics

Documents Tabled: Email from the Department re that the signs requested have been installed

Department forwarded photos of the signs.

CEO has expressed concern to the Department that there is a 100km speed sign just past the airstrip coming up to the Belyuen Community.

CEO believes this is too fast to be going past a community

CEO advised Council that the Department has yet to respond to this concern.

Noted.

#### 7.7 Dept of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics

Documents Tabled: Letter re Annual Review of the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan

Noted

#### 7.8 Administrator of the Northern Territory

Document Tabled: Letter from the Administrator sending best wishes and support in this time of COVID-19

Noted

#### 7.9 Chief Minister

Document Tabled: Letter from the Chief Minister re Business Hardship Package

CEO has been advised by the Department of Local Government that Local Government are not eligible to apply for these hardship packages.

Noted.

#### 7.10 Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Document Tabled: Letter to the President re Initiatives to support Council in efforts to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in Belyuen.

This item has been dealt with in Point 6.

#### Additional Correspondence

##### 7.11 Nair Watkins Accountants

Document tabled: Letter to Nair Watkins advising them that Council will only be seeking a contract for consultancy work to the end of September 2020.

Council also seeking an hourly rate for work undertaken from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30 September 2020.

CEO advised Council that Nair Watkins have not responded to this letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

7.12 Email from Federal Government Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government

Email informing Council that the Federal Government is going to release the Financial Assistance Grant allocation early. The Grant is not due until 20-21 financial year but the Government are going to release it in the current 19-20 financial year.

The Federal Government also going to give Council an extra \$14994 from the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Programme.

CEO advised that in total the Federal Government are giving Council \$45001. Noted.

## **8. General Business**

8.1 Belyuen Council Continuity Business Plan Coronavirus and Update

Documents Tabled: Belyuen Council's Business Continuity Plan Version 5 and Version 6

Noted

8.2 Wagait Tip Remediation

Meeting with Wagait CEO and Dept of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics  
13 May 2020

To provide an update on what is happening with the remediation work.

Document Tabled: Flyer from NT Government re Project Update – showing Map of area where work being undertaken

The CEO explained to Council that once the work begins there will be up to 8-10 trucks a day travelling on the Cox Peninsula road taking waste to Shoal Bay.

There will also be trucks coming around from Fog Bay road area bringing landfill to the tip site.

Council discussed concerns about potential dangers on the road with so many trucks and the road being not very wide.

The CEO informed Council that traffic concerns had been raised with Departmental staff.

The CEO informed Council that the Department were made aware that trucks can access fuel 24/7 at Belyuen, that Belyuen has a well equipped mechanic workshop and the store provides good take away food.

Departmental staff to let the Contractors know of what the community can offer.

Noted.

### 8.3 Belyuen and Coomalie CEO Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Meeting at Coomalie with CEOs from Coomalie and Belyuen; Coomalie Accountant and Belyuen Consultant.

Meeting was a meet and greet with the Coomalie new CEO and discussion around accounting, computer package CouncilWISE and possibility of two Council's continuing with working towards amalgamation.

Belyuen Council to discuss continuing to work towards amalgamation with Coomalie Council.

**Resolution: 8.3.05.20**

That the Belyuen Council reaffirms their commitment to working with Coomalie Council towards amalgamation of both Councils.

Moved: Vice President Edmunds

Seconded: Councillor Lewis

Carried

### 8.4 Belyuen Council and Wagait Shire

CEO informed Council of the meet and greet meeting with the new CEO at Wagait 14 May 2020.

CEO advised that discussions were largely around waste management and roads. Both CEOs Agreed to meet fortnightly with the next meeting on 28 May 2020

**Resolution: 8.4.05.20**

That Belyuen Council CEO continues to work with the Wagait Shire CEO to help address the waste management problems on the Cox Peninsula and road safety issues. The CEO to provide monthly updates to Council.

Moved: Councillor Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Moreen

Carried

### 8.5 Community Cemetery Clean up

CEO informed Council that the Civil Works staff have done a major clean up of the cemetery. Families need to now clean up the grave sites.

**Resolution: 8.5.05.20**

That Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June be identified for a community clean up of grave sites at the cemetery and

Council to provide gloves and garbages and a meal for those people who work at the clean up.

Moved: Vice President Edmunds

Seconded: Councillor Moreen

Carried

## 8.6 Local Meeting

Meeting with Clinic, School, Workshop, Women's Centre, Council and Ironbark phoned into the meeting.

Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May to discuss waste management alternatives for the community with the closing down of the dump.

Noted.

## 8.7 Meeting with Department of Local Government

Meeting with the Department of Local Government Executive Director Maree DeLacey; Senior Director Sustainability and Compliance Meeta Ramkumar; Senior Legislation and Policy Officer Ethan Redshaw; Coomalie CEO Anna Malgorzewicz and Belyuen Consultant Cathryn Hutton.

Meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May Local Government Office.

Meeting to discuss with the Department recommencing the amalgamation discussions and what is required to be presented to the Department.

Noted.

## 8.8 Zoom Meeting 21 May with Consultant Cathryn Hutton.

Meeting to discuss applicants for the Finance Officer position.

CEO informed Council that the Zoom was not operating so a phone meeting was held instead.

CEO informed Council that a number of people had applied for the Finance Officer position and that 4 people had been short listed to be interviewed on Thursday 28 May 2020.

The interviews to take place in Darwin.

The person selected to be offered the position will be invited to come to Belyuen and meet the Council and staff so they can decide if they would like to work here and vice versa.

Noted.

## 8.9 Store staff

CEO provided update to Council.

CEO informed Council that both the Store Manager and the Store Assistant have both resigned for personal reasons.

CEO has interviewed a person for the Store Assistant position and they have been offered the position. The person is a local (Wagait) woman who has over 15 years experience in retail with Woolworths.

Previous Manager will be doing two days a week to do invoicing, ordering, banking and goods received until a new Manager can be employed.

The school nutrition positions are being job shared by four community people and this is working out well.

Saturday and Sunday are now worked by two local (Wagait) people.

Noted

## 8.10 Invitation to CEO NLC to visit the community

CEO informed Council that this Agenda item is a follow on from the March meeting Point 7.3

### **Resolution 8.10.05.20**

That the CEO write to the NLC CEO inviting her to attend the July 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 Council meeting.

Moved: Vice President Edmunds

Seconded: Councillor Sing

Carried.

## 8.11 Dump previously known as 'The Belyuen Dump'

CEO informed Council that the EPA (Environment Protection Authority) have instructed that the old council office roof tiles are to be removed from the dump and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Removal scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May with Veolia Waste Management.

Civil Works staff to clear a drive way through to the tiles for the truck and skips to get in. It was noted that there is still no signage at the Dump since the Kenbi Rangers Coordinator has changed its status to an "Illegal Dump".

Noted.

### 8.11 Meeting with John AhMat Alcohol Harminisation Programme

Council discussed inviting John to a meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the plans for the mid year family camp.

CEO to send invitation to John AhMat for a meeting at 10am on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Noted

### **Confidential Business Meeting closed to the Public**

#### **9 Confidential Business**

That in accordance with section 65(2) of the Local Government Act the meeting is now closed to the public as confidential items classified by regulations as confidential are about to be discussed.

Moved: Councillor Moreen

Seconded: Vice President Edmunds

Carried

#### **Grounds for Exclusion of the public**

Closure of the meeting is in accordance with Local Government Administration Regulation 8(a) as the matter about to be discussed includes (1) information about people who owe money to Council and those who have vehicles in the Workshop Compound that have not been paid for.

#### **10. Meeting re- opened to the Public**

#### **11. Next meeting and Close**

There being no more business the Vice President closed the meeting at 9.45pm  
Next meeting scheduled for 22 June 2020.