

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Belyuen Community Government Council
held on 15 November 2017**

Present: Zoe Singh	President
Rex Edmunds	Deputy President
Cecilia Lewis	Councillor
Roger Yarrowin	Councillor
John Moreen	Councillor
Cathy Winsley	CEO BCGC

Visitors from the Division of Local Government:

Lee Williams : Executive Officer Local Government Division Dept of Housing and Community Devlpt.

Rolf Nillson : Senior Project Officer Local Government Division

Kate Wheen : Manager Regional Governance Local Government Division

Observers from the Local Government Association NT

Peter McLinden : Manager Transport and Infrastructure Services

Angela Pattison : Governance Trainer

Visitors from Alcohol and Other Drugs 2.30pm

Kristien Ottewill : A/Director Harm Minimisation

John AhMat : Community Support Officer Tobacco

The President opened the meeting at 1.45pm and welcomed Visitors, Observers and Council members to the meeting.

The President requested that the CEO present the Agenda items.

1. Apologies

Nil

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 8th September 2017

Minutes had previously been distributed to Council members

Resolution: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2017 be confirmed.

Moved Cecilia Lewis

Seconded Zoe Singh

Passed unanimously

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business

4. General Business

4.1 NT Electoral Commission Belyuen Community Government Council Election Report for Council's information.

CEO advised that the Report gives a break down of the Council Election, how many people voted, number of nominations, results of the voting.

4.2 Audited Financial Statements AFS 2016-17

Finance Committee accepted the report at the 13 October Finance Committee meeting.

Resolution: That Council accepts the 2016-17 Audited Financial Statement and it be placed on the Council website.

Moved Zoe Singh

Seconded Rex Edmunds

Passed unanimously

4.3 Annual Report

CEO Tabled the 2016-17 Annual Report

The CEO commented that the report is about what Council did during 16- 17 financial year and how well they did it.

The CEO commented that a bound copy would be prepared for all Council members and the report will be put on Council's website with the Audited Financial Statements

Resolution: That the 2016-17 Annual Report is accepted and that the Audited Financial Statements be included with the report and placed on the Council website.

Moved Cecilia Lewis

Seconded Roger Yarrowin

Passed unanimously

4.4 Corrected August Financial Statement

The Finance Committee requested that the corrected August Financial statement be tabled at the November Council Meeting.

The CEO advised that the Accountants had corrected the August Debtors that were not up to date.

The CEO recommended that Council accepts the Financial Statement.

Resolution: That the August Monthly Financial Statement be accepted.

Moved: Zoe Singh

Seconded Cecilia Lewis

Passed unanimously

4.5 September Monthly Financial Statement

CEO Tabled the September monthly financial statements.

The CEO discussed the report with Council.

Resolution: That the September Monthly Financial Statement be accepted.

Moved Rex Edmunds

Seconded John Moreen

Passed unanimously

CEO advised that a Budget review will be prepared for the January 2018 Council meeting

4.6 *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations* Part 9 Authorised accounts and expenditure (copy attached)

Section 20 Disbursements from authorised accounts

The CEO briefly informed the Council how the approval for paying invoices was done when there was no Council and what it would look like under Council. The CEO stressed to Council that there has to be a delegated staff person approving payments as they are the ones that have checked that services have been done or goods purchased.

Resolution: That Council authorises the CEO or the Store Manager Kelly Murphy or the Civil Works Manager Mark Perejuan to sign cheques and process electronic disbursements on behalf of Council pursuant to regulation 20 of the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*.

Moved Rex Edmunds

Seconded John Moreen

Passed unanimously

The CEO explained to Council that under the Local Government Accounting Regulations Council needs to seek approval from Local Government for one of the Accountants to be the second person to sign for approval to pay an invoice.

Nair Watkins has identified Lloyd Nair and Paul Boyd as being one of the people to approve payments.

Resolution: That Council forwards an exemption request to the Department of Housing and Community Development for an exemption under the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations* allowing Lloyd Christopher Nair and Paul Andrew Boyd from Nair Watkins Chartered Accountants to sign cheques and process electronic disbursements on behalf of Council, provided that one of the two people signing each cheque or processing each electronic disbursement is authorised by Council under Regulation 20.

Moved Rex Edmunds

Seconded Zoe Singh

Passed unanimously.

4.7 Kristien Ottewill and John Ahmat were invited to address the meeting

Kristien and John introduced themselves and gave a brief history of the house by house alcohol workshops that were held late 2016. Thirteen sessions were held over 2.5 weeks.

Kristien explained that out of the workshops a lot of activities were identified that people would like to see in the community to help them strengthen the community and tackle some of the alcohol and drug problems.

Community members discussed things that they liked doing in the past and what they would like to see happening again. A banner was made with people painting some of these activities.

Four ideas that came from the workshop that have been taken up as possible activities are

1. Going back to country camps – these camps involve families going back to their own country and taking family members there some of whom have never been there. A number of workshops had been held to start planning the logistics of it all as many of these places are not easy to get to. The group decided to use Bulgul as the base to leave from. Kristien explained that a proposal had been prepared with the group and that funding had been approved. Because it was late in the wet season there was not enough left to organise everything especially the travel so it was agreed to put it on hold for the 2018 dry season.
2. Music Project targeted for youth though other age groups can be involved. A workshop has been held with community members. 18 people came to the workshop and discussed what they would like to do and when. The programme is aimed at youth for late afternoon into evening. Skinny Fish have expressed their interest in running the project however it has been on hold until after Dr G's funeral. Funds for this project have been confirmed.
3. Cemetery Project
This project had been discussed with a group of men in the community doing Centrelink Participation activities.
The Project involves erecting bough shelters, planting shrubs, installing a water tank and setting up reticulation, adults sharing stories and transferring knowledge with younger community members and surveying the cemetery. This project is still in the planning stage.
4. Men's Shed
Kristien explained that this project had been discussed with the group of men doing the Centrelink activity.
The Shed will be for all men in the community and would be constructed by the men.
Lot 287 had been identified as a possible Lot to erect the Men's Shed.
Kristien explained that the Federal Government who will be approached to fund the Shed would not pay for Section 19 Lease as it is not in their funding guidelines.
Councillor Edmunds commented that as a Community Men's Shed benefitting all men in the community it should not require a Section 19 Lease.

Resolution: That Council write to NLC Lawyer Philbert Mukundi requesting that Lot 287 be allocated for a Men's Shed in the community without a Section 19 as it is for all men in the community.

Moved Rex Edmunds
Seconded John Moreen

Passed Unanimously

The President advised the CEO to address the letter to the NLC Lawyer Philbert Mukundi

Kristien and John thanked Council for allowing them to talk with them about Projects that had been discussed within the community.
Kristien and John left the meeting at 3.15pm

4.8 Belyuen Council and Coomalie Council Meeting on 10 November 2017

Lee Williams talked with Council members about the meeting with Coomalie Council members on 10 November and how they felt about the meeting.

Lee talked about what a new Council might look like, having a new name for it and setting up a Local Authority at Belyuen that would advise the new Council.

Lee asked Council if they would be interested in setting up a Working Group with Coomalie so they can start talking more formally about joining together. Coomalie Council have said that they would like to set up a Working Group with Belyuen.

Lee commented that the Working Group would have the Presidents and two Council members from each Council and would be supported by the two CEOs and Local Government Department staff.

Council members all agreed that they would like to continue working with Coomalie.

Resolution That Belyuen Council agree to a Working Group focussing on Belyuen Council, Litchfield National Park and Coomalie Council looking at joining and that the President Zoe Singh, Deputy President Rex Edmunds and Councillor John Moreen be on the Working Group.

Moved John Moreen

Seconded Rex Edmunds

Passed Unanimously

Council confirmed that they would meet with Coomalie on 1 December.

4.9 Finance Committee

The CEO advised Council that the Finance Committee date has been set for Friday 15 December at 1pm

4.10 Next Council Meeting

The CEO advised Council that the next full council meeting has been set for Friday 12th January 2018 at 1pm

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 4pm

Minutes confirmed.....

Date.....

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