

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2011**

PRESENT Mayor Cr. P. Stephen (Chair), Cr. N. Bin Tahal, Cr. B. Shibasaki, Cr. A. Ketchell, Mr. B. McCarthy (Chief Executive Officer), Mr. G. Yates (Director Engineering Services), Mrs Dalassa Yorkston, (Director Corporate Services) and Ms. N. Ward Page (Minute Secretary)

The meeting opened with a prayer by Mayor Stephen at 9.20am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners the Kaurareg People, upon whose land we hold our meeting.

APOLOGY: Apologies were received from Cr Bin Tahal for her late arrival and Frank Darke, Director Planning & Environmental Services who was on personal leave.

Min. 11/03/1 **Moved Cr. Shibasaki, Seconded Cr. Ketchell**
"That the apologies from Cr. Bin Tahal and Mr Frank Darke be received."

Carried

CONDOLENCES: As a mark of respect, Council observed a minute's silence in memory of:

*Karim Binawel, Olga Savage and Waraka Adidi and all the people
who lost their lives in the recent earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan*

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT: Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Min. 11/03/2 **Moved Cr. Shibasaki, Seconded Mayor Stephen**
"That Council receive the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 15 February 2011 and confirm as a true and correct record of the proceedings."

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cr. Shibasaki	<u>General Business</u> Any decision on the emergency services site on POW
Cr. Ketchell	<u>General Business</u> Requested update on Abandoned Vehicles

MAYOR'S REPORT

Queensland State Government's Legislative Reform – Local Government

The Queensland Government's review of the State's Legislation applying to Local Government is closing on Friday 18th March 2011. Whilst there is a short timeframe, Council needs to clarify whether a submission is warranted from our Shire. These legislative reform provides council an opportunity to highlight the 'gaps' associated with local Government services delivery in our remote island environment.

Min. 11/03/3 **Moved Cr. Ketchell, Seconded Shibasaki**
"That Council compile a submission on relevant matters to highlight the gaps associated with local government and advise CEO by 10a.m., Thursday, 17 March 2011".

Carried

ROCCY AGM & General Meeting

The meeting will be held on 17-18 March 2011 at the Sisters of Mercy Conference Centre, 35 Bauhinia Ave Cairns. Council has held an observer status as member of ROCCY since its conception. This organization has provided strong indigenous advocacy role for Cape York, Torres and Northern Peninsula Councils regarding social and economic developments for our respective remote, isolated communities. It also provides a strong alliance with other 'like' Councils to address strategic goals. **For information.**

Hon. Warren Snowdon's MP visit to Torres Strait

The Minister Hon Warren Snowdon, Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Defence Science and Indigenous Affairs, will be visiting Thursday Island from Wednesday 6th April to Thursday 7th April 2011. As part of the Minister's visit, Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) has proposed a Roundtable Meeting involving key stakeholders. The Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairperson has proposed that a joint agenda be developed between Torres Strait Regional Authority, Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. Topics should be submitted through the TSRA's Governance and Leadership Program. TSRA apologizes for the short timeframe.

Min. 11/03/4 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That a joint agenda for the Roundtable Meeting being held between 6-7 April 2011 by the Department of Health & Ageing (DOHA) be developed between TSRA, TSIRC and the NPARC and TSC and be submitted through the TSRA's Governance & Leadership Program."

Carried

Attendance: Cr. Bin Tahal arrived at the meeting at 9.50am.

Department Environment Resource Management (DERM) - Land Transfer Program

The Department has commenced consultation with stakeholders in relation to land transfer of Deed in Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and other unallocated land and islands throughout our region. At our recent meeting with representatives from DERM the importance was highlighted for Council to keep abreast of these discussions. **For information.**

\$1.4 billion Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF)

Whilst \$350 million is already earmarked to rebuild regional Australia devastated by recent natural disasters, there is over \$1 billion available from the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) to provide financial grants supporting the infrastructure needs and economic growth of Australia's regions. I have requested that the CEO and Directors identify the funding guidelines for the extension of the airport runway and the development of a new international terminal for the Horn Island airport. These proposed airport developments have solid economic and social opportunities for our region as well as both Cape York and our international northern neighbors – such as mining/tourism/educational and health research/security and emergency services. The proposed airport developments will link our regional communities across traditional and international boundaries.

Min. 11/03/5 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Mayor Stephen

"That Council propose the funding guidelines of the Airport developments for our region as well as Cape York and our international northern neighbors, such as mining/tourism/educational and health research/security and emergency services which link our regional communities across traditional and international boundaries, be identified for the RDAF financial grant."

Carried

Queensland Disaster Heroes

The Premier Hon Anna Bligh MP has decided to dedicate the 4-13 June 2011 as Queensland Week to recognize Queensland Disaster Heroes. This program recognizes community members who, during these extraordinary events, helped and supported their fellow Queenslanders by showing outstanding community initiative, true bravery, courage, resilience and strength during the greatest natural in our history.

Nominees will receive a commemorative medal and will be publicly recognized for their inspiring achievements at local events in each of the affected regions during Queensland Week. This program targeted members of the community rather than police, army or emergency services personnel who will be recognized through their own organizational promotion of this recognition program.

Min. 11/03/6 Moved Cr.Ketchell, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council investigate potential nominees with SES and sister Councils for the Queensland Disaster Heroes Award for recognition during Queensland Week."

Carried

Councillor Media Training

I wish to nominate Councillor Napcia Bin Tahal to attend the Media and the Government 'Masterclass' training at Brisbane on Wednesday 6th April 2011. This training provides an unique opportunity to learn more about media and the government. Council should lobby with Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) for funding to host media training for councilors in our region.

Min. 11/03/7 Moved Cr. Ketchell, Seconded Mayor Stephen.

"That Council seek support from LGAQ to host media training for Councillors on Thursday Island."

Carried

Declaration Against Bullying and Violence

The Tagai State College has requested Council's support in promoting positive behaviour and provides safe environments for learning in our schools. Schools are encouraged to form an alliance with Council to publicly promote a Declaration Against Bullying and Violence through local posters. Poster sample will be tabled at the meeting.

Min. 11/03/8 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Bin Tahal

"That Council work in partnership with Tagai State College to support and promote the College's Declaration Against Bullying and Violence."

Carried

TI Boat Club Proposal

A proposal was received from the Executive Principal (Judy Ketchell), Tagai State College to establish a Youth Support Facility at the unused Boat Club facility.

Min 11/03/9 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Ketchell

"That Council through its appropriate Directors investigate the possible lease by Tagai State College of the TI Boat Club."

Carried

Min 11/03/10 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That the Mayor's Report be received."

Carried

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 10.25am and resumed at 10.50am with the attendance of Queensland Police officers, Snr Sgt Bulluss of Thursday Island Station and Snr Const Nathan Burnett of Horn Island Police Division to discuss community matters.

Snr Sgt Bulluss acknowledged the traditional owners and acknowledged CEO, Bernie McCarthy's last meeting and extended appreciation for his involvement in the developed waterfront and other projects and wished him well on his departure.

ISSUES OF DISCUSSION
Queensland Police – Thursday Island
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Re capping on last Council meeting discussions of 14 December 2010.2. Cash for Cans project and Littering and reinforced offer of Queensland Police Service to assist Council in preventing breach of peace whilst they enforced local laws.3. Discussed damage on waterfront/esplanade including new taskings to ensure more patrols.4. Detections of people loitering in the vicinity of the waterfront area on Friday, Saturday nights and Sunday mornings had increased.5. General Police email to report matters - ThursdayIsland@police.qld.gov.au6. Damage to fields of Ken Brown Oval and at High School - vehicles doing 'donuts' on Oval. Inquiries indicate a possible vehicle but no suspects have been apprehended.7. Reporting on Cemetery vandalism is currently nil8. Councils Consultative Meetings involving TSIRC, TSC & NPARC councils (TSC rep is Gus Yates, Director Engineering Services)9. Cr Ketchell raised problems at Tamwoy during football season. Patrols will be increased in that area on Saturday nights .10. Attention will be paid to vehicles cutting the corner and speeding around Loban Street (Stephen Street) and Olandi Street whilst walkers are in that area.

Snr Const. Barnett acknowledged the traditional owners and proceeded with discussions.

Queensland Police - Horn Island
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advised an apology was sent by Sgt Allan Dewis and he would deputise in his absence.2. Vandalism reported at HI Sport Complex – no prosecutions as CCTV footage malfunctioned. Offenders believed to be non community members.3. Increase of Graffiti offences.4. Following discussions with Cr Bin Tahal the HI Police are now on the Ngurupai Sports Complex Advisory Committee & are preparing to organise events to combat juvenile boredom.5. Request fees at the HI Sport Complex be waived to make it more feasible to hold events such as Blue Light discos and sports competitions for the HI youth. <i>CEO advised that a formal letter of request should be forwarded to Council.</i>6. Vacant land with old hut near Power Station used illegally by juveniles for drinking & drugs and requested that the hut be demolished. <i>CEO advised the location needs to be identified on the HI map for Council to assist.</i>7. Local offences not being reported by the community.8. Potholes on Horn Island need urgent attention.9. Cr. Bin Tahal raised the safety issue of a passenger bus doing a turnaround on the uphill area at Ratbag Ridge, outside the Store and using motorcycle helmets should be policed.

Departure: Senior Sergeant Bulluss and Snr Const Burnett departed the meeting at 11.25am

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

REPORT

Common Seal Use

Min. 11/03/11 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council approve the use of the Official Seal by the Mayor as itemised below:

Date attached	Document Description	
22/2/11	A/TSI Descent ID – Debra May Seilu Auda	Mayor
28/2/11	A/TSI Descent ID – Melinda Seapeta Miskin	Mayor
4/3/11	A/TSI Descent ID – Thomas F M Fujii	Mayor
4/3/11	A/TSI Descent ID – Johnson P Fujii	Mayor
8/3/11	A/TSI Descent ID – Charmaine Sarah Zitha	Mayor"

Carried

Meeting between Kaurareg Aboriginal Nation & Torres Shire Council (File 6-1-10)

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 17 March 2011 commencing at 10am.

Staff Uniform Policy (File 1-19-7)

Min. 11/03/12 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council adopt the Administration Policy for TSC Staff Uniforms."

Carried

Mobile Phone Policy (File 1-19-7)

Min. 11/03/13 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council adopt the Administration Policy for TSC Staff Mobile Phones."

Carried

Bayo Beach Development (File 5-7-7)

Min. 11/03/14 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council prepare a Development Plan for the Bayo Beach area, call for suggested improvements and consider initial works in the 2011/12 budget."

Carried

Vanessa Seekee, Horn Island – King Point Gun Emplacement

Min. 11/03/15 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Bin Tahal

"That Council approve the request for a letter of support for the 3.7inch gun to be displayed at the King Point Gun Emplacements on Horn Island and raise this issue at the Joint ILUA meeting on 17 March 2011."

Carried

Farewell Chief Executive Officer

The Mayor acknowledged Bernie McCarthy's term of employment from November 2004 to March 2011 at Torres Shire Council and presented him with a token gift from the Councillors and the official TSC Plaque in appreciation.

2. CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT

- Min. 11/03/16 Pensioner Remissions 2010/11 (File 1-316-7)**
Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki
“That the pensioners, as listed below, applying for Rates Remission in 2010/11 be approved.

Assessment No.	Pensioner Ratepayer
189-00000-000	Emily Majid
295-00000-000	Edith Boyd ”

Carried

Kushimoto Sister City Relationship & Delegation 2011 (File 1-32-4)

TSRA advised at the recent MOU Meeting on 1 March 2011 that they would not be sending a representative but are happy to assist in the venture by providing financial support of a total of \$3,500 for a TSC officer to accompany the delegation (being \$2500, \$500.00 towards taxi fares and \$500.00 towards contingencies). Tagai State College has verbally advised that they are unable to join the delegation and no response has been received from TSIRC.

- Min. 11/03/17 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Ketchell**
“That (1) Council endorse the Friend City Agreement between Torres Shire Council, Thursday Island and Town of Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture and approve the signing of this Friend City Agreement during the official ceremony being held in April 2011 in Kushimoto, Japan and attended by the official Thursday Island delegation including Mayor Stephen, Cr. Shibasaki, Mayor Gela and
(2) that Council nominate the Director Corporate Services, Mrs Dalassa Yorkston to accompany the delegation to Kushimoto.”

Carried

Tourism Steering Committee (File 1-078-011)

- Min. 11/03/18 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki**
“That the Minutes of the Tourism Steering Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24 February 2011 be received and noted.”

Carried

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting (File 1-078-011)

The following tentative dates have been set for Councillors information -

11 & 12 April 2011 Budget Inspection Tour
11 May 2011 Finance and Audit Committee Meeting
16 June 2011 2011/2012 Budget Meeting

- Min. 11/03/19 Moved Cr. Bin Tahal, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki**
“That the Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2011 be received and noted and the recommendations be adopted.”

Carried

Adjournment: The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.40pm and resumed at 1.25pm without the presence of Cr Ketchell who did not return to the meeting.

3. **ENGINEERING SERVICES**

REPORT

Terminal Cleaning Contract (File 2-71-12-10)

Council received a number of requests for tender packages for the terminal cleaning contract.

Min. 11/03/20 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Bin Tahal

"That Council offer Piera Friolo a 3 year contract for the Horn Island Airport - Terminal Cleaning Contract with an option to extend for a further two years."

Carried

Roads and Streetscapes

Min. 11/03/21 Moved Mayor Stephen, Seconded Cr. Shibasaki

"That Council adopt the Road Closure Policy which is to be included in Council's Policy and Procedure Manual."

Carried

4. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

REPORT

Horn Island Affordable Housing Project Update (File No 4-1-4)]

Min. 11/03/22 Moved Cr. Shibasaki, Seconded Mayor Stephen

"That Council receive the Horn Island Affordable Housing Project report prepared by Black and More."

Carried

6 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr. Bin Tahal

- **Rebels Donga, Nawie Street Horn Island.**

Bus driver currently living in the donga, which was approved as 'site office'. Rebels buses are parked either on the nature strip or on the neighbours vacant block and the bus driver is often seen refuelling the buses by drums of diesel and a siphoning hose. There is a childcare across the road and a medical centre three doors down, plus the residents directly either side - are there any risks to anyone in the close vicinity with this practice? What are Councils local laws about this sort of thing?

CEO advised that some weeks ago DPES wrote to Rebels on this issue and will follow up when he returns from leave.

- **Nature Strip in Outie Street, Horn Island**

Peita and Garth McGeachie who previously operated the Horn Island Motel has been looking after the nature strip outside their residences in Outie Street, Horn Island. They are doing a great job. I don't know if they have officially adopted the area through the Councils program, but I am requesting Council formally acknowledge the great work they are doing. Youth often use the area as a park or a meeting place, its just a real pity that they don't respect it.

CEO will write a letter to Peita & Garth McGeachie commending them on their efforts in maintaining the nature strip outside their property in Outie Street and along the rest of the street..

Cr. Bin Tahal (cont'd)

- **Horn Island Foreshore Beautification Project**

As mentioned at the recent Audit Meeting, I am keen to know how we can assist to speed things along to have this project begin? Michael Guise has offered his assistance with machinery (for free) to help with doing something. Greg Kirk from Ports Corp advised that he has copper logs/old power poles that can be used to build a sea wall. I have not approached Sea Swift, but I'm sure they can do something. What I'm thinking, is that in the short-term (until a formal agreement can be reached with PCQ Head Office) is that we just build the sea wall, extend the roof area of the existing waiting shed and remove the actual vacant toilet cubicles, keep the roads around the immediate area safe for pedestrians and traffic. In the long term, with ongoing negotiations and securing much needed funds, a proper public toilet needs to be built and an additional road to be cut in close against the Sea Swift fence line to allow the heavy traffic to use that road. This could be a good partnership with the business mentioned above, as well as the wider Horn Island community. I have been advised that this could be done as a Community Working Bee, to avoid any litigation issues.

Cr Bin Tahal will follow up with correspondence to the stakeholders from the Horn Island Residents & Ratepayers Association.

- Buses are often dropping off or picking up on the rise at Ratbag Ridge Horn Island. This has become a very unsafe practice, as there is no actual turn off lane to allow the traffic flow. What improvements can be done, within existing budget, to make this more safe for all road users?

Director Engineering Services will follow up this situation.

- Parking outside South Pacific Store Airport Road Horn Island can be a hazard when drivers insist on parking directly in front of the door or paraneil to the premises. If guard rails could be located near the area, or an actual line marked parking done, this would not only make the entry more safe for all users, but it would also allow a more controlled area. Would this be looked at as part of the upcoming Roads and Drainage project on Horn Island? What specifically is planned for the project?

Director Engineering Services will investigate this area and report back in his next report.

- NSC Community Meeting took place on Saturday and a Committee has now been re-established. There were some positive suggestions from the floor including: a quarterly community clean up of the complex, a suggestion for key pick up/drop off at the local Childcare, key bond to be increased, opening hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6pm - 9pm etc. Minutes will be forwarded in due course, which will include all action items.

CEO will refer this report and pending minutes to DPES to follow up the necessary issues.

Cr. Shibasaki

- Invite TSRA to participate on the annual Budget inspections
- Council needs to investigate a salary package policy for Contract Staff
- Stated of all the CEOs here during his term as Councillor, Bernie McCarthy was a CEO who "got things moving in the Shire" and extended his appreciation and blessing for the future.

Mayor Stephen

- Council supports the establishment of an Elders Group from inner islands as determined at a recent meeting of Relationships Australia and other Government stakeholders on 22 February 2011.
- Appreciation was once again extended to CEO Bernie McCarthy and wished him and his family well for the future.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19 April 2011

CLOSURE: The meeting closed with a prayer by the Mayor at 2.45pm

Confirmed this 19th day of April 2011

MAYOR