MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING NO. 2
HELD IN THE FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
TAVISTOCK STREET, TORQUAY, HERVEY BAY
ON WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 2012 COMMENCING AT 9.30AM.

PRESENT:
Councillor David Dalgleish (Chairman)
Councillor Julie Arthur
Councillor Sue Brooks
Councillor Linda Harris
Councillor Debbie Hawes
Councillor Barb Hovard
Councillor Les MucKan
Councillor Gerard O'Connell

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:
Chief Executive Officer, Ms Lisa Desmond
Acting Director Community & Development Services, Mr Andy Gaze
Director Organisational Services, Ms Alexis Hill
Principal Officer Corporate Communication & Marketing, Mr Kevin Corcoran
Meeting Secretary, Mrs Julie Schoonderwoerd

ORD 1 OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer was delivered by Councillor Les MucKan.

ORD 2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION (Hawes / O'Connell)

That the apologies from Councillors Kruger, McNeven and Nioa who are absent for personal reasons be accepted.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/952/02/12

ORD 3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

ORD 4 MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

ORD 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

ORD 5.1 Ordinary Meeting No. 1 – 25 January, 2012

RESOLUTION (Hawes / Hovard)

That the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting No. 1 held on 25 January, 2012, be confirmed.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/953/02/12

ORD 6 ADDRESSES/PRESENTATIONS

ORD 6.1 Certificate of Appreciation

Councillor Dalgleish presented to Council a Certificate of Appreciation received from the 36th Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force in recognition of Council's outstanding support for the "Back to Base Relay Run" which raised money for Cancer Council Queensland. He said that the Squadron had raised almost $8,000. Councillor Dalgleish said that he also wished to acknowledge the outstanding effort and hospitality provided to the Squadron by Station Square Bakery, Subway and the Maryborough RSL in providing food and refreshments and making it an enjoyable visit as the Squadron moved through the region.

ORD 7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ORD 7.1 Pumping of Water from the West Lake / Maintenance Issues, Ann Street

Mr George Seymour, 31 Banksia Street, Point Vernon

Addressed Council in relation to a petition to be tabled later in the meeting by Councillors Brooks regarding a conditional licence granted to the Happy Wanderer Caravan Park to pump water from the lakes. Outlined how the permit had surprised and angered residents, as well as their concerns regarding lack of maintenance and the general deterioration in water quality. Indicated that Council had been aware of these issues for a number of years and referred to its maintenance and management guidelines for the reserve adopted in December 1998, as well as a resolution in February 2002 regarding deepening the basin.

Mr Michael Torrens, 54 Ann Street, Torquay

Advised he had spoken to most of the residents regarding the pumping of water from the lakes. Referred to similar issues a number of years ago at which time the Ombudsman had been involved which had enabled the situation to be stopped. Outlined how the pumping of water had recently recommenced without consultation with the residents. Advised Council there were drainage pumps coming from the caravan park which the residents would like investigated because it was believed this could be the cause of the growth of a lot of water weed. Said when he purchased his home in 1996 the area was called the Anembo Lakes Estate, but they are now referred to as stormwater retention basins. Advised it was able to be proved they were natural water flows, which had been affected by the groynes into the sea. Requested Council to remove the weeds, pepper trees and lilies from the lakes.

ORD 7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ORD 7.2 Bus Stop – Nissen Street Opposite Hospital and Overgrown Drain

Mr John Curd, 47 Johnson Boulevard, Urraween

Referred to the bus stop in Nissen Street opposite the hospital and advised that the seat was broken and to his knowledge had been since December. Said that this morning a lady cut her leg on the steel which was protruding.

Commented on the condition of the drain which ran from Jacobsen Outlook through to Jensen Drive saying it was not possible to walk along the path because the grass was overgrown and trees were being choked with a vine.

ORD 8 DEPUTATIONS

Nil

ORD 9 PETITIONS

ORD 9.1 Receipt of Petitions

(a) Pumping of Water from the West Lake, Ann Street

Councillor Brooks tabled a petition signed by 224 people, with principal petitioner Mr Michael Torrens, stating the petitioners wished to lodge an objection to the conditional approval granted by Fraser Coast Regional Council and demanded that the pumping of water from the West Lake by the owner of the Happy Wanderer Caravan Park be stopped.

RESOLUTION (Brooks / Arthur)

That the petition be received and forwarded to Chief Executive Officer and a report be presented to Council.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/954/02/12

ORD 9 PETITIONS

ORD 9.1 Receipt of Petitions

(b) Security Cameras – Main Street Business District

Councillor Dalgleish tabled a petition signed by 108 residents, owners, staff and customers of property and businesses in Main Street (Business Section), Hervey Bay regarding security cameras for the Main Street business area.

RESOLUTION (Dalgleish / MucKan)

That the petition be received and referred to Chief Executive Officer for a report to Council.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/955/02/12

ORD 9 PETITIONS

ORD 9.2 Open Petitions Register

Councillor Arthur referred to the resolution of Council in relation to a petition response report presented to Council in November 2011 regarding the continuation of the mobility corridor at Urangan, and advised that the chief petitioner had not yet received a response and asked why this had not occurred.

RESOLUTION (Hawes / MucKan)

That the Open Petitions Register report be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/956/02/12

ORD 10 COMMITTEES' AND DELEGATES' REPORTS

Nil

ORD 11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

ORD 11.1 Amendment to 2011/12 Fees and Charges Schedule – Due to Adoption of New Local Laws

RESOLUTION (Hovard / Brooks)

That Council adopts the proposed amendments to the 2011/12 Schedule of Fees and Charges set out in Attachments 1 of the report (DOCS 2130792).

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/957/02/12

ORD 11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Councillor Brooks declared a perceived conflict of interest in Item ORD 11.2 because she is the President of the Fraser Coast Pet Warriors group. Councillor Brooks remained in the meeting for discussion of and voting on the item.

ORD 11.2 Responsible Pet Ownership Initiatives

RESOLUTION (Brooks / MucKan)

That:

1. Council endorse and implement the amended Responsible Pet Ownership Initiatives contained in the report (DOCS #2158269),

2. Council write to the local vets providing details of the desexing initiatives and seek any assistance that they may be able to offer to support the campaign; and

3. the animal registration drive include both cats and dogs.

Carried (7/1)
Ord 2/958/02/12

Councillor Harris requested her vote against be recorded.

ORD 11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

ORD 11.3 Council Meetings Schedule March/April 2012

RESOLUTION (Arthur / O'Connell)

That the following scheduled meetings be held up to the Quadrennial Elections on 28 April, 2012:-

February 2012:

- 8 February 2012 (2nd Wednesday) - Planning & Development Committee Meeting (Hervey Bay);
- 15 February 2012 (3rd Wednesday) – Ordinary Meeting (Maryborough).

March 2012:

- 7 March 2012 (1st Wednesday) – Ordinary Meeting (Hervey Bay);
- 14 March 2012 (2nd Wednesday) - Planning & Development Committee Meeting (Hervey Bay);
- 21 March 2012 (3rd Wednesday) – Ordinary Meeting (Maryborough).

April 2012:

- 4 April 2012 (1st Wednesday) – Ordinary Meeting (Hervey Bay); (last Council Meeting prior to 28 April Quadrennial Elections)

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/959/02/12

ORD 12 MATTERS / MOTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

ORD 13 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ORD 13.1 Questions on Notice Register

RESOLUTION (O'Connell / MucKan)

That the Questions on Notice Register report be received and noted.

Carried Unanimously
Ord 2/960/02/12

ORD 14 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE AGENDA WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAYOR

Nil

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.1 Question on Notice - Parking Issues - Urangan

Councillor MucKan requested, as a question on notice, an update to Councillors regarding the parking problems experienced by the business community in Urangan. He said that he, Councillor Dalgleish, the Executive Manager Regulatory Services and the Executive Manager Environment and Open Space had attended a meeting last week with the business people to work through some of the problems.

Mr Gaze enquired as to whether this related to additional parking or parking enforcement, or both. Councillor MucKan said that he would like to know generally how this matter could be moved forward.

Councillor Dalgleish said that the officer could also include the report that was conducted by the former Hervey Bay City Council which cost Council a considerable amount of money but never came back to Council.

The Chief Executive Officer said that this could be included, adding that the parking strategy was currently being reviewed and would then be brought to Council for consideration.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.2 Question on Notice - Playground Equipment – Pier Park, Urangan

Councillor MucKan requested an update in relation to the playground equipment for Pier Park, which was an issue also discussed at the meeting with the business sector at Urangan. He said that the general community was also wondering what was happening with regard the playground equipment.

The Chief Executive Officer said that a report could be brought to Council regarding this matter and she understood there had been a request for playground equipment at Pier Park which had gone to the Executive Manager Environment and Open Space. Ms Desmond said that she believed there were no budgeted funds at the moment but Mr Cockburn was going to undertake further consultation with the business community regarding what they would like to see and location.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.3 Parents and Community Engagement (PACE) Program - Australian Electoral Commission Information Session

Councillor MucKan said that he wished to congratulate Cindy Singho, co-ordinator of the PACE Program in relation to the Australian Electoral Commission information session which had been held on Monday 30 January at the Memorial Hall. The PACE program, an initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) focuses on the development and implementation of creative and innovative approaches to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander young people through parental engagement with schools and education. Councillor MucKan said that he had been invited to be a guest speaker, and had explained to those in attendance the importance of enrolling to vote for the forthcoming elections.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.4 National Broadband Network

Councillor Brooks said that it was amazing how more and more people were working from home and using the internet as a means to earn an income. She asked if the Economic Advisory Committee, or through the Chief Executive Officer, Council could be given an update as to where Council was in communicating its desire to be at the top of the list rather than the bottom in relation to the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in terms of rolling out the NBN to brownfield sites, meetings had been held with the State Government in terms of priorities. Ms Desmond said that the roll out was purely decided by the NBN Co. so there was very little that could be done to get to the top of the list, and there was a roll out programme. She said that NBN had made a presentation to Council, the Chamber President and the UDIA in terms of greenfield sites and getting developers on board to start lodging applications to get greenfield roll out for NBN. The Chief Executive Officer said that unfortunately at the moment it was necessary to have 100 lot subdivisions for consideration, and in this area there are not a lot of those types of developments. Ms Desmond said that Council was looking at working with them to ascertain if it was possible to get three or four developers together that may have appropriate subdivisions and lodging a joint application. She said that the UDIA was working with the developers regarding this aspect; and it was planned to have the NBN representative return to present to the building sector because there were certain ways in which houses could be wired to take advantage of the NBN. She said that digital economy initiatives would be rolled out for business to give them information on types of technologies available now.

Councillor Brooks thanked the Chief Executive Officer for her response, adding it was definitely the way of the future.

Councillor O'Connell said that some years ago, a consultant who undertook a consultancy for the former Maryborough City Council and Hervey Bay City Council mentioned the need to appropriately equip buildings with reference to promoting and building industrial estates; it was not simply a matter of putting down slabs and looking for car parking and floorspace. He said that he thought this area was ahead of the game to some extent and was very pro-active. Councillor O'Connell said that some weeks ago the newly appointed Business Commissioner came through the area as a preliminary visit in relation to proposed workshops and the need to have good connectivity was one of the issues presented to him.

Councillor Brooks said people did not realise how important optic fibre was when dealing with a lot of data and as people use the internet more and more it will be needed. She said that it was good that Council and the development industry were working together to ensure we were not left behind.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.5 Walk and Cycle Strategy

Councillor Brooks requested that Councillors be given an update in relation to when the Walk and Cycle Strategy would be finalised and adopted.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that she would need to confirm it, but her understanding was that Council adopted the Walk and Cycle Strategy late last year, however it was acknowledged at that time there was a lot of additional work to be done to review it. Ms Desmond said that she had met with the Director Infrastructure & Environment earlier this week and with the departure from Council of Mr Barry Heins, Ms Aimee Powell the Design Engineer & Assets Manager would be reviewing the outstanding work. The Chief Executive Officer said that hopefully the reviewed Walk and Cycle Strategy would come to Council in the next couple of months, but there was an existing adopted Walk and Cycle Strategy.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.6 Riding Horses on Beach at Dundowran Beach

Councillor Brooks said that in the new Local Laws there was a change with regard to the options for people to ride horses on the beach at Dundowran Beach. She said that she understood that some of the people who were making use of that section of the beach to ride their horses were having difficulty parking horse floats and getting their horses onto the beach, which was causing angst and a meeting needed to be held to discuss this issue. Councillor Brooks said that the matter needed to be investigated and the people needed to formally know that for those who bring their horses in a horse float, they had access to parking as well as a safe way of getting their horses onto the beach. She added that she had lodged an action request regarding the areas as well.

The Acting Director Community & Development said that he would be happy to have a meeting regarding this matter.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.7 Compliments to Outdoor Staff

Councillor O'Connell said that, as everybody was aware, the area had been inundated by rainfall over the last couple of weeks and he wished to pass on to Council that a good number of people had made comments regarding the timeliness and service of Council's outdoor staff in attending to the various work required, even on the weekend as soon as it was dry enough. He said that the public were appreciative of the work being done and he wished to pass on the compliments.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.8 Meetings with Moteliers and Hoteliers

Councillor O'Connell said that he and Councillor Hawes had attended a meeting of some representatives of the Moteliers and Hoteliers in the Maryborough area last Friday morning, and he referred to the meeting held on Saturday morning at which the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Executive Officer Wide Bay Water Corporation were in attendance. He said that he thought it worth noting that the point needed to be made that no Councillor or Council would want to do anything to disparage or disadvantage a business, particularly a business as vital as hospitality. Councillor O'Connell said that Council was subject to fairly significant State Government impost and charges that have to be absorbed, and unfortunately they sometimes have to be passed on. He said that in terms of vacancy rates it was known the Tourism Industry Australia wide was under a fair bit of threat, and the Fraser Coast was probably no different and therefore fixed costs become a more prominent issue. Councillor O'Connell referred to Council staff, particularly in the Events Section, and commented on the number of events that were brought to the Fraser Coast, saying while it was not an exhaustive list, these events booked out motels. He also referred to the recent launch of the "My Fraser Coast" card which was an initiative with a strong partnership with business looking for what opportunities were available in the burgeoning mining sector. Councillor O'Connell said in relation to the meetings with the Moteliers and Hoteliers, Council would take their recommendations on board, but as they were policy decisions they would need some discussion. He said Council was always open to suggestions and recommendations but it was not easy in being able to provide the services.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.9 Australia Day

Councillor Harris referred to recently held Australia Day celebrations saying she wished to make reference to the community groups who played a major part in the celebrations at Tiaro. She commented on how it had not been possible to utilise the original venue because of the rain, and celebrations had been moved to the Memorial Hall which was very full on the day. Councillor Harris thanked the Councillors who had attended. She said that it had been great to see so many people from the community participating in the Australia Day celebrations.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.10 Australia Day

Councillor Hawes said that she thought most Councillors had covered all of the celebrations throughout the region on Australia Day. She said that the celebrations had all gone very well although some were less attended than others due to the weather. Councillor Hawes said that unfortunately the weather had necessitated the postponement of the Australia Day celebrations planned for Teebar. She advised that these would now be held on Saturday 24 March in conjunction with the planned Family Picnic Day at Wookoo Park

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ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.11 LGAQ News Release

Councillor Hovard referred to the latest news release from the LGAQ which was headlined “half-baked planning policies no good for state’s economic health”. She said that as everybody knew the Fraser Coast had a very long coastline going from Burrum Heads, past Tinnanbar almost to Tin Can Bay. Councillor Hovard said that the Government had formally approved the Queensland Coastal Plan incorporating the State Planning Policy 3/11 and risk assessment guidelines last week, and had informed Councils that the Plan would commence this Friday. She said that Mr Greg Hallam, LGAQ Chief Executive Officer, had described it as appalling that the Government had given Councils and the development industry less than a week to determine how to comply with the final complex new rules affecting the future shape of coastal communities. Councillor Hovard said that, like the LGAQ, she was sure this Council supported the intent of the Queensland Coastal Plan but it was very complex, and in dealing with coastal areas there were a lot of issues. She said for it to be passed in a week, and Council and the development industry only given a week to get all of the detail right was grossly unfair.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.12 Car Park – Beach Road

Councillor Dalgleish said that he had made a visit to monitor the works being undertaken at the car park near the intersection of Beach Road and the Esplanade. He said that the car park was now nicely hot mix sealed and very well done. Councillor Dalgleish said that the extra work that was done was for the Wide Bay Water trucks which needed to enter the car park. He added that the odour coming from the pumping station had become quite apparent and he had had many residents speak to him when he had been on site, saying it was the worst it had ever been. Councillor Dalgleish requested the Chief Executive Officer contact Wide Bay Water regarding this matter.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.13 Kehlet Street Seal

Councillor Dalgleish said that it gave him great pleasure this morning to see that the prime seal had gone down on Kehlet Street. He said that the residents of Kehlet and Maple Streets would be "over the moon" that this road has finally, after many years, been completed. Councillor Dalgleish said that staff had done a fantastic job taking into account there had been the worst weather for undertaking major works but they had pressed on and every time the weather was fine they were on the job getting it done.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.14 Point Vernon Car Parks

Councillor Dalgleish said that he was looking forward to seeing a series of car park upgrades around Point Vernon now that Council had gone along the front of the bay. He said that all of the formalised car parking that currently existed in the area was bollarded off dirt areas which were eroding away, filled up with water becoming hazardous in wet weather and environmentally, it was better to seal them than not seal them. Councillor Dalgleish said that he hoped that Council could look at rolling out the completion of those car parks which were semi-constructed.

ORD 15 GENERAL BUSINESS

ORD 15.15 Australia Day

Councillor Dalgleish said that further to previous comments regarding Australia Day, he wished to acknowledge the effort at Burrum Heads, Howard and River Heads particularly. He said that it was unfortunate when events were washed out, but those two communities had been able to successfully hold their functions. Councillor Dalgleish said that it was a credit to them that every year a dedicated group of people get together and make it a community family rather than simply a function. He said it was well done to the staff that had supported the Australia Day events.

ORD 16 CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 10.34am.

Confirmed at Ordinary Meeting No. 3 of the Fraser Coast Regional Council held at Maryborough on 15 February, 2012.

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DEPUTY MAYOR