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Confirmed Minutes
Burke Shire Council Ordinary General Meeting
Wednesday 20 April 2011
9.00am Council Chamber

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01. Opening of Meeting

The Chair declared the Meeting open at 9.35am

02. Present

Cr Annie Clarke, Mayor - Chair
Cr Ernie Camp, Deputy Mayor
Cr Tracy Forshaw
Cr Tonya Murray

Cr Bill Olive - Telephone

Gary Letts, Chief Executive Officer
Deborah Prosperus, Regional Partnerships Officer

03. Prayer

Cr Camp led Council in Prayer.

04. Consideration of applications for leave of absence

None received

Attendance

Cr Tonya Murray entered the meeting at 10am

05. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

05.01 General Meeting 22nd March 2011 and Special Meeting 1st April 2011

FILE: BCS/G/CMM

Moved: Cr Forshaw
Seconded: Cr Clarke

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 22nd March 2011 and 1st April 2011 as presented be confirmed by Council.

Carried 01.110420

06. Condolences

Council noted the passing of Mr Terry Arnold and Ms Irene Anderson, Mrs Susan Campbell-Wharton (School of the Air, librarian and specialist teacher) and expressed their condolences to the Families. Cr Camp asked that the flag be lowered to ½ mast

07. Mayoral Minute and Report

I have provided an article for your information following the meeting with Minister Mulherin, Betty Kiernan MP, Mr Brent Finlay President of AgForce and others to discuss the floods. Unfortunately with the limited time, it was disappointing that all the discussions by residents of the Shire were limited and some were frustrated that their needs couldn't be satisfied. However there was a surprising number of people who managed to attend and their input was extremely valuable. Our thanks go to those who were able to attend.

Spirits soar despite flooding in Gulf

Extract from North West Star
HAYLEY SORENSEN
04 Apr, 2011 12:00 AM

MEMBER for Mount Isa Betty Kiernan and Queensland Agriculture Minister Tim Mulherin toured towns in the Gulf last week to meet with locals and inspect damage caused by flooding to the region.

Ms Kiernan said despite the flooding which had cut off parts of the region by road for two months, Gulf residents were in good spirits.

"On the whole everyone is coping with the isolation," she said.

"They're waiting patiently. Services are still ticking over and still working.

"We're monitoring essential services like fuel, avgas and food on the shelves."

In Karumba, 40 people turned out to discuss local issues with the politicians.

"We had a good cross section of the community with business owners, accommodation and tourism operators, and fishermen and miners," Ms Kiernan said.

Hot topics in Karumba were the recent approval of funding for a crossing to be built over Corduroy Creek and damage to roads and agricultural land caused by flooding.

"Instead of just going in and repairing the roads to the previous standards we have federal funding to upgrade them," Ms Kiernan said.

"We will keep working and chipping away at them."

Gulf residents are still waiting for floodwaters to recede before damage can be properly assessed.

"At this stage we have not heard of any stock loss," Ms Kiernan said.

However, land which has been underwater for weeks is likely to be unusable until the next wet season washes away the silt and mud left behind by flooding.

Mr Mulherin and Ms Kiernan were joined by AgForce president Brett Finlay, who urged primary producers to stay positive.

"It is crucial for the agricultural sector to work together through the natural disaster response stage to ensure producers can rebuild their livelihoods to reinvigorate regional communities and businesses," he said.

The banana prawn season opened at noon on Friday, which may provide some respite for a local economy which has suffered through four consecutive severe wet seasons.

- Invitation to meet Campbell Newman in Mount Isa and/or Cloncurry. A formal invitation was sent to regional Mayors to meet with Campbell Newman, Leader of the LNP.

I was able to have a breakfast meeting with Mr. Newman and we discussed:-

- the Wild Rivers Legislation including possible opportunities and;
- the unnecessary impediments, the problems councils are facing with the current structure of the Local Government Act;
- the energy needs at Gregory and a potential solution including a solar farm, hydro etc, all which have implication under the wild rivers legislation.

He was receptive to a delegation from Council when the opportunity provided itself.

Mayor and Debbie Prosperus RDO attended a Climate change forum, structure around the beef industry, water interests and Local Government. The minutes of this meeting will be forwarded upon receipt of them. Mayor attended Governance training in Mount Isa. Mayor and Debbie Properous attended the GSD meeting in Normanton. An unexpected visit by the Premier resulted in the following items:

Other items of discussion:-

- Breakfast with Premier
- Road works opportunity
- Block of material for sculpture from MMG
- Extra flights for Burketown
- Reconstruction authority opportunities and timing
- Energy opportunities, Warren Christensen report
- assistance by Premier with Fed Government re solar farm, hydros,
- submission to the Feds for co investment into a hybrid power system, Council will need to talk to DME/ DEEDI to get a commitment to extend the subsidised power rates to Gregory, and to support the possible submission.
- Roads opportunities RDA funding \$8m Qld Gov able to use as Qld contribution
- Signage assistance to council to erect, road way signs houses etc
- DPI resolution shocked to find funded externally through grants and officers really cannot be called extension officers.

07.01 GSD – Small Business Assistance

BCS/ED/A/GSD

Moved Cr Clarke
Seconded Cr Murray

That in relation to eligibility for small business assistance under NDRRA to assess equity across the state a study is done by GSD as a matter of urgency.

- There needs to be a trigger for exceptions under exceptional circumstances to create the stimulus for regional viability as seen in other parts of the state of Queensland.
- Criteria needs to be based on need
- Multiple annual events
- Lack of infrastructure resulting in delays and accessibility
- Consult with Agforce President Brent Finlay to ensure producers can rebuild their livelihoods to reinvigorate regional communities and businesses

Carried 02.110420

Action: CEO after Easter breaks.

07.02 Gregory Low Impact Camping Area

BCS/CP/CA

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Murray

That council develop the project for low impact camping area at Gregory. That the CEO directs suitable staff member as project officer and bring back the preliminary information for the June 2011 council meeting.

That the pontoon and boat ramp project be progressed and completed before commencement of 2011 wet season.

Carried 03.110420

07.03 Burketown Wharf Sheltered Marina Feasibility Study

BCS/TAT/BRWP/W

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That a stage two project be developed as a feasibility study for a sheltered marina at the Burketown wharf site. The project is to include proper corporate partnership opportunities.

Carried 04.110420

Action: Provide report regarding Joinforces.com.au. Burke Shire is to register for any opportunities available.

07.04 Burketown Port Development Feasibility Study

BCS/TAT/BRWP/W

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That a feasibility study be conducted on the prospects of a port development from the Burketown Wharf area for live cattle exports, produce and mining opportunities.

Carried 05.110420

Action: That Cr Camp and Cr Olive to consult with the Council RPO officer.

07.05 Letter from Sal Petrocchio

BCS/TAT/PLAN

Noted - Tabled on 28 March 2011 a letter from Sal Petrocchio, A/General Manager and Integrated Transport Planning.

07.06 Minister for Environment, Kate Jones Invite

That. Council invites Kate Jones, Minister for Environment to do a review of the impacts analysis of the Wild Rivers Legislation on the Gregory River System to demonstrate the viability and sustainability of the economic, social, and environmental situations.

BCS/G/LEG/WR

Moved Cr Clarke
Seconded Cr Forshaw

Carried 06.110420

07.07 Mayor Letter

BCS/ED/A/GSD

Moved Cr Murray
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That following on from an invitation to regional Mayors to meet and greet in Mount Isa with Campbell Newman the Mayor Clarke write to the Chair of GSD to reissue the invitation to the LNP to do a listening tour to the region as promised in last year's delegation.

That Cr Clarke was on official council business attending this meeting.

Carried 07.110420

07.08 Approach MMG

That Council approaches MMG to donate suitable rock/ore to be a signature piece for sculpturing as part of their significant legacy in the Burke Shire and that a suitable quantity of silver be made available for a RADF community silversmiths workshop to produce a Mayoral Chain.

BCS/CS/ARTS/RADF

Moved Cr Clarke
Seconded Cr Forshaw

Carried 08.110420

Action: Cr Clarke to issue an invitation to MMG separate to council meeting to discuss future development and continuation of the mining in Burke Shire and to advise that council is disappointed not to be included in the formal communication of the significant announcement of the extension of mining activities.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned for lunch from 1.00pm to 2.05pm.

Upon resumption, all but Cr Murray were present at the time of commencement.

07.09 GSD Regional meeting with the Federal Opposition

BCS/ED/A/GSD

That two Burke Shire representatives attend the GSD Regional meeting with the Federal Opposition in Georgetown, 3 May 2011, 6.30pm to discuss water resource development, infrastructure investments, marine conservation initiatives, energy needs.

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

Carried 09.110420

14 Closed session reports

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That Council move into closed session to discuss confidential items as stated in the *Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010* in Chapter 5 Administration, Part 2 Local government meetings and committees, under *Sections 72 (1) (a) and (f)*. Council moved into closed session at 2.36pm to discuss GSD Matters.

Carried 10.110420

Attendance

Deborah Prosperus left the meeting at 2.36pm

Attendance

Cr Murray entered the meeting at 3.30pm.

Move into Open Session

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That the meeting resume in open session to consider recommendations arising out of the closed session. Council resumed open session at 4.30pm.

Carried 11.110420

Attendance

Deb Prosperus, Regional Partnerships Officer and Deb Glyde, Finance Manager entered the meeting at 4.30pm

07.10 Petition for Replacement of Teacher Residence

BCS/CS/SP/BSS

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That council support petition and write a letter in support of the supply of a demountable housing for the school teachers at Burketown.

Carried 12.110420

11. Finance Manager Reports

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That the Finance Services Officer's Standing Business Papers for Information as presented in Report 11.01.01 to 11.01.04 of the Business Papers be received by Council and noted; and

The Finance Services Officer's Business Papers for Council Consideration and Decision as presented in Reports 11.02.01 to 11.02.02 of the Business Papers be received for consideration.

Carried 13.110420

11.01 Tender – Preferred Burke Shire Specification for Tenders of Preferred Suppliers

BCS/TAQ/2011/11-07

Moved Cr Clarke
Seconded Cr Camp

That the current preferred Burke Shire Specification for Tenders of Preferred Suppliers – Supply of Goods and services and hire of plant and machinery tenderers specification document be withdrawn from the website and readvertised with front page only. Interested tenderers will need to apply for a tender package from Burke Shire Council office with all correspondence to be directed to the CEO.

A retraction is to be placed in the previously advertised papers of the current tender document.

Amended tender documents are to be re-advertised.

All future Burke Shire tenders will follow this as the correct procedure.

Carried 13.110420

11.02.01 Bad Debts

Council has a number of bad debts that need to be recognised and written off as the chance of recovery is slim. These debts have been to Collection House and their advice back has been to write them off due to the value and unable to recover the debts from the debtors.

FILE: BCS/FM/D/RO

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That Council writes off the following as bad debts: \$60.00; \$1,465.72; \$122.20, \$1015.45 as advised.

Carried 14.110420

11.02.02 IP Telephone System

Council currently has old Commander Telephones in the office. The warranty on these phones expired last year they are starting to fail therefore to keep our office operating efficiently and effectively we need to update our system.

FILE: BCS/T/LLP

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Clarke

Council bring in an IT Consultant to go over our IT requirements looking at our phones, internet and Accounting Software Package tender results.

Carried 15.110420

14 Closed session reports

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Clarke

That Council move into closed session to discuss confidential items as stated in the *Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010* in Chapter 5 Administration, Part 2 Local government meetings and committees, under *Sections 72 (1) (a) and (f)*. Council moved into closed session at 5.30pm to discuss Staff Matters.

Carried 16.110420

Attendance

Deborah Prosperus left the meeting at 5.30pm.

Move into Open Session

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That the meeting resume in open session to consider recommendations arising out of the closed session. Council resumed open session at 6.05pm.

Carried 16.110420

16. Closure of Meeting

Council meeting has been adjourned and to be held over to Wednesday 27 April 2011 starting at 9.00am.

The Chair declared the Meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Council Resumed Ordinary Meeting on 27th April 2011

01. Opening of Meeting

The Chair declared the Meeting open at 9.38am.

02. Present

Cr Annie Clarke, Mayor - Chair
Cr Ernie Camp, Deputy Mayor
Cr Tracy Forshaw

Cr Bill Olive - Telephone

Cr Tonya Murray – Reported in sick

Gary Letts, Chief Executive Officer
Deb Prosperus, Regional Partnerships Officer

07. Continuation Mayoral Minute and Report

07.11 Federal Opposition Visit

BCS/CM/FGC

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That Council issues an invitation to the Federal Opposition representatives to visit Burke Shire as part of their regional meeting and that the Mayor be delegated to discuss time and travel.

Carried 01.110427

07.12 ALGWA Conference

BCS/GR/LARL/ALGWA

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Clarke

That a resolution from the Burke Shire Council be taken to the ALGWA conference on the Gold Coast on the 27th July 2011 as follows:

That LGAQ provide a Shire based in-house training course, for anyone wishing to nominate to stand for the next Local Government election in 2012 and that the course covers the understanding of the roles and responsibilities of councillors under the Local Government Act 2009.

And that newly elected councillors be required to attend a course or courses within the first two years of their term on Directors responsibilities.

Carried 02.110427

07.13 ALGWA Conference

BCS/GR/LARL/ALGWA

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That ALGWA strongly opposes the Labour Party's Carbon farming planning scheme because of the threat to food security that makes redundant valuable food production areas. Purchasing of unallocated water resources is also under threat under this scheme.

Carried 03.110427

08. Councillor Reports

Cr Camp presented a verbal report.

Cr. Tracy Forshaw – April Report

1/4/11 – Minster Mulherin, Betty Kiernan MP & Ag Force meeting - Burketown

4/4/2011 – Teleconference Gulf Energy Group

- Chair & Secretariat position – Donald Coventry (Sth Gulf Catchments) has taken on the Chair. GSD will still be Secretariat.
- Burketown Kindy – Solar Project – electrician just waiting for weather to clear and it will be installed.
- Other Solar Project in the GSD area – waiting on funding
- Annie Clarke advised re BSC's Solar Projects for Burketown and Gregory
- Seeking funding from DEEDI to do an Investment Prospectus for renewal energy in the Gulf.
- Qld State Government - Power Savvy roll out in Gulf – Burketown and Doomadgee in 2012 - this is for towns with diesel generators – teaching residents to use less power = less diesel
- Look into funding for a report re feasibility of Agave growing in Wild River areas. Agave can be used as a biofuel and energy source.
- GSD to see Office of Renewal Energy regarding power distribution at Gregory.

11th & 12/4/2011 – Developing Australia's North Conference – Cairns

- Discussion about skill and employee shortages plus the untapped workforce in the north.
- Legislation restraints in the Gulf, Daintree & Cape – holds back development
- Qld Rail update
- Renewal Energy update
- Ecotourism

14th & 15/4/2011 – GSD Executive Meeting - Normanton

- Regional Community Plan – GSD members to share their community plans
- Council to be “project ready” - GSD to apply for RDA funding
 - Burketown/Gregory Road – bridges
 - Monsoon Centre in Normanton
- Digital TV – join forces with other shires including McKinlay & Western Shires
- Beef & Roads Forum postponed TBA
- Next Meeting in Georgetown 1st July – “Wild River Forum”
- Breakfast with Premier Anna Bligh, Major General Mick Salter plus GSD Mayors and Crs.
- 25/4/11 Anzac Day – Thankyou to all of the volunteers.



08.01 Reconstruction Authority Meeting

BCS/EM/RA

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That the Mayor, CEO and DES attend the Reconstruction Authority meeting in Mount Isa on the 11th May 2011.

Carried 04.110427

Attendance

Cr Bill Olive left the meeting at 11.36am.

Attendance

Cr Bill Olive entered the meeting at 11.40am.

10. Chief Executive Officers Reports

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That the Chief Executive Officer's Standing Business Papers for Information as presented in Report 10.01.01 to 10.01.03 of the Business Papers be received by Council and noted.

Carried 05.110427

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned for lunch from 12.40pm to 1.10pm.
Upon resumption, all were present at the time of adjournment.

10.01 Lobby the Federal Government

BCS/TELE/U

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That Council request AGLWQ to lobby the Federal Government with the view to providing equitable service and funding provision for Local Governments in remote areas for the distribution of a combined digital television service as is provided in urban areas.

Carried 06.110427

Attendance

Director Engineering Services entered the meeting at 2.24pm.

12. Director Engineering Services Reports

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Clarke

That the Director Engineering Services Standing Business Papers for Information as presented in Reports 12.01.01 to 12.01.02 of the Business Papers be received by Council and noted.

The Director Engineering Services Business Papers for Council Consideration and Decision as presented in Report 12.02.01 of the Business Papers be received for consideration.

Carried 07.110427

Attendance

Cr Clarke left the meeting at 2.27pm.

Attendance

Cr Clarke entered the meeting at 2.30pm.

12.01 Discussion was held regarding an email report presented by DES from Powersafe Solar. Council discussed Solar options for Burke Shire.

Attendance

Cr Forshaw left the meeting at 3.59pm.

Attendance

Cr Forshaw entered the meeting at 4.00pm.

Attendance

Cr Olive left the meeting at 4.10pm.

Attendance

Cr Olive entered the meeting at 4.20pm.

12.02 Gregory Downs Solar Power Pilot Project

BCS/ENERGY/SP/S

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Clarke

That Council put out Expression of Interest for the development of a Solar Power Pilot Project for:

1. Gregory Township
2. Council Depot and house at Gregory
3. Water Treatment Plant at Gregory

Carried 08.110427

12.03 Burketown Solar Power Project

BCS/ENERGY/SP/S

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That Council put out Expression of Interest for the development of a solar power project for Burketown as per the Warren Christensen – Powersafe Solar report for Burketown and Gregory Downs.

Carried 09.110427

12.04 Discussion held about extra Dump Ezy facilities for Burke Shire.

12.02.01 Resurfacing Gregory Tennis Courts

BCS/TAQ/2011/GTC

Held over until finalisation of quotes.

13 Consideration of committee recommendations

None received

14 Closed session reports

Moved Cr Clarke
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That Council move into closed session to discuss confidential items as stated in the *Local Government (Operations) Regulation 2010* in Chapter 5 Administration, Part 2 Local government meetings and committees, under *Sections 72 (1) (a) and (f)*. Council moved into closed session at 6.25pm to discuss staff matters.

Carried 10.110427

Attendance

Deborah Prosperus left the meeting at 6.25pm.

15 New business of an urgent nature admitted by Council

No new business admitted.

Move into Open Session

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Camp

That the meeting resume in open session to consider recommendations arising out of the closed session. Council resumed open session at 7.00pm.

Carried 11.110427

16. Closure of Meeting

The Chair declared the Meeting closed at 7.18pm.
