



*Unconfirmed Minutes
Burke Shire Council Ordinary General Meeting
Friday 23 April 2010
9.30am Council Chamber*

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01. Opening of Meeting

The Chair declared the Meeting open at 9.32am

02. Present

Cr Ernie Camp - Acting Mayor, Chair
Cr Tracy Forshaw – Acting Deputy Mayor
Cr Bill Olive
Cr Tonya Murray

Leanne Mash - Chief Executive Officer
Jenny Williams - Executive Assistant

03. Prayer

Cr Forshaw led Council in Prayer.

05. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

General Meeting March 17 2010

FILE: COU/11

Moved: Cr Olive
Seconded: Cr Forshaw

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on March 17 2010 as presented be confirmed by Council.

Carried 01.100423

06. Condolences

Council noted the passing of Mavis Hansen and expressed their condolences to the Hansen Family.

07. Acting Mayoral Minute and Report

Easter Flooding Event in Burke Shire and Other Matters

Rain began falling in the week commencing 29 March as a result of the rain depression following the shearing off of ex TC Paul.

Evacuations

As a result we had 3 rural evacuations – Tiranna and Bowthorn. I must commend the pilots who undertook these evacuations – their skills and level headed approach ensured the safe carrying out of what was a difficult task. Escott (5 Mile) chose to self-evacuate due to the amount of water they could see coming through the catchment. There was no record of inundation into urban dwellings though some relocations took place due to the dwelling being surrounded by water.

During this time I contacted Escott, Beamesbrook (ringing regularly to ascertain their safety), Kingfisher Camp (also to ascertain the needs of Bowthorn as their phones were out), Brookdale, Westmoreland, Cliffdale and Yeldham in order to make sure that they were okay and had no concerns re safety and evacuation.

District Disaster Management Committee Meetings

Dennis made a report which in turn caused the activation of procedures on Sunday when it became obvious that Burketown and indeed the Western portion of the Shire was facing serious inundation. At this stage Bowthorn had already been evacuated, Escott was self-evacuating and there was talk of evacuating the town. Tiranna's evacuation was also organised. We held several meetings in the initial phase and then moved to daily meetings along with the issuing of daily notices to the community and businesses. The committee and the meetings were able to move forward quickly on issues that came to our attention. This was because of all parties involved. In particular I would like to mention:

- Burke Shire Council Staff – notably Acting CEO John Brady, Dennis Kerr and Jenny Williams. They were under a lot of pressure at times and responded in an efficient and timely manner to all emerging issues often outside “ normal” office hours
- EMQ – Elliott Dunn, Cameron Barwick and Ray Pringle. They were also proactive in their response and in meeting our requests for support. Particular mention must be made of their arranging for the supply of helicopters for the duration of the event and continuing on to date in order to facilitate initial recovery efforts.
- Government Departments and Representatives – Thanks must go to Betty Kiernan for her support and assistance in arranging for relevant parties to contact and support the Shire and the Committee during the event and through the recovery process. As well as representatives of the Premier's Department, DEEDI (particular the local Biosecurity Officer in Normanton – Ben Payne), Bob Katter and his office staff for pursuing the matter of re-establishing communication for isolated properties and Emergency Services.
- Caitlyn Gribben ABC Mt Isa – who has done a great job highlighting our plight to the wider community.

All Members of the Committee, Gregory SES, Burketown SES – for their proactive stance and concerted effort to take issues forward and insistence for a desired, pre-determined outcome.

Contact During the Flooding event and in the Recovery Period

During this time, although I had ongoing phone difficulties, I made/received the following phone contacts:

- GOVERNMENT – Neil Roberts (Min for Emergency Services), Wally Kearnan (Rural Adviser – Premier’s Department), Betty Kiernan (Local State Member), Bob Katter (Local federal Member), Ted Malone (Shadow Minister emergency Services), Eddie Gilbert – NQ Manager Primary Industries – DEEDI), Ben Payne (Biosecurity Officer – Normanton, Gary Gray (Federal Secretary for Northern Australia), Elliott Dunn (EMQ), Paul Bell (LGAQ)
- ADVISORY BODIES ETC - Rob McAllister (CEO< GSD), Greg McNamara (Chair, Agforce North), Rob Johnston (Agforce)
- PROPERTIES – Escott – Andrew Daniels and Ian Kennedy, Beamesbrook – Will/Barb (Managers) and John Nelson, Bowthorn – Ed Throsby (owner) and Gary/Kaye Dollard (Managers – via email), Brookdale – John smith, Westmoreland – Di Gould, Cliffdale – Bill Olive, Pandanus (Almora) – John Clarke, Kingfisher Camp – Janelle (Caretaker/Manager). Also contacted community members and Mayor Fred O’Keefe of Doomadgee to ascertain their needs and river heights. Also contacted various people in Burketown to gauge their safety and concerns.
- MEDIA – spoke with ABC – Mt Isa, Brisbane, Cairns and National. ABC Mt Isa has been terrific during event and in following up and bringing issue to National attention. Spoke with journalists from AAP and The Australian, NW Star.
- BUSINESSES – Lynette Clemments (Tiranna), Nowlands re fuel, all businesses regarding resupply issues and Skytrans Community Relations Manager (Fiona Jose)

Worked with John re media releases and daily reports to the community.

Gregory Downs Evacuations

Tracy has covered this by separate previous email.

Thanks to Gregory SES, EMQ and PJ Webber, Josh Ward from Mellish Park for their assistance in establishing contact with and needs of stranded tourists. Thanks also to Ian and Tracy Forshaw who accommodated tourists in their own accommodation after road rescue.

Initial Recovery

- At the request of Council DEEDI had arranged for local Biosecurity Officer to complete an inspection of affected rural properties. Due to our insistence they undertook to visit more stations than originally intended. Chopper breakdown may have hampered this activity.
- Had representatives from DEEDI (Bruce Turner – Senior Officer, EMQ (Acting director General Bruce Grady, Elliott Dunn), DMR (Peter Trim) arrived for a meeting Tuesday 13 April. Felt it was a productive meeting. Constantly reiterated issues arising as a result of this event – see section on issues below.
- Had 30min meeting with Betty at the airport – highlighted need to secure airstrip, secure airstrip access, secure building at airport, sealed connected road Gregory-Burketown-Doomadgee and the need for an urgent electricity connection to the Jet A1 bulk fuel bowser at the airport
- Starting on Tuesday 20 April reps from Farm Finance, DEEDI – Small Business Advice Dept, QRAA as well as a social support officer will be in the Shire to see affected businesses/stations. EMQ have made the chopper available to take these persons out to stations if required.

Issues to Take Forward

- Securing the airstrip – slight realignment and raising required to the airstrip
- also to improve access to the airstrip
- Secure cyclone proof building at the airport – I suggest that it be a hangar on the elevated area.
- Power connected to bulk Jet AI tank
- The need to have a sealed road from Gregory to Burketown – improved ability to trade, resupply and has social benefits (also applies to Doomadgee)
- Need to work with Telstra to secure communications
- Need to install more river height gauges
- Concessional registration for essential service providers eg mailman, freight companies (as put forward previously to NQLGA and to local members)

Conclusion

As with any major event there are always things to take forward for review and refinement. However on the whole because of the cohesive and collective approach taken by all parties the response to this emergency was well handled and considered and empathetic measures were undertaken in order to, as much as possible, minimise the disruption and potential negative affects of the emergency. This highlighted to me why this is a great Shire to live in.

Other Meetings Attended

- RRG Technical Meeting in Croydon with Dennis
- Attended a welcome dinner for John Brady (Acting CEO), farewelled John and presented him with small token of our appreciation for his efforts in handling events during his short time with us.

08. Councillor Reports

Verbal Reports to be provided to Meeting

Cr Bill Olive

I would like to thank Councillor Ernie Camp, Jenny Williams, Dennis Kerr and Acting CEO; John Brady for their swift response and the professional way in which they organised the “Team” to come and speak to the people affected by the floods.

The “Team” gave advise on how to apply for loans and assistance from QRAA and their Government Departments. The one on one talk with Ann Kreger, of the RFDS, MHD section, was appreciated by my wife and other women in the affected area, as was Tony Alderman and Ian Jackson’s report on the damage caused by the events . Thank you.

The Acting Mayor’s Report on the flooding events over Easter 2010, is a very fine report. I commend Ernie Camp for the way it has been done, point by point. It is by far the best Mayoral report we have had in a long time. It would be good to receive monthly Mayoral reports of a similar standard at future meetings.

Attendance

Jenny Williams, Executive Officer left the meeting from 9.43am to 10.02am

Teleconference - Mr Des Ryan from 10.03am to 11.42am

Debbie Glyde, Finance Manager entered the meeting from 10.03am to 11.46am

Cr Tracy Forshaw left the meeting from 11.42am to 11.44am

10. Chief Executive Officers Reports

Moved Cr Murray
Seconded Cr Forshaw

The Chief Executive Officer's Standing Business Papers for Information as presented in Report 10.01.01 to 10.01.04 of the Business Papers be received by Council and noted; and

The Chief Executive Officer's Business Papers for Council Consideration and Decision as presented in Reports 10.02.01 to 10.02.02 of the Business Papers be received for consideration.

Carried 02.100423

Declaration Conflict of Interest

Cr Tracy Forshaw declared a conflict of Interest as her daughter is a member of the advisory group.

10.02.01 Order of the Outback Community Ball 2010

The Order of the Outback Community Ball is a bi-annual event last held in 2008. EOI's were distributed and the advisory group had its first meeting on the 31 March 2010. The date recommended by the advisory group is July 3 2010. The group also forecast a 2010-11 budget allocation of \$10 000 is required to cover costs.

FILE: EVE/19

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Olive

That Council endorses the Order of the Outback Community Ball date to be held on Saturday 3 July 2010

Carried 03.100423

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned for lunch with the HACC clients from 12.28pm to 2.00pm

Attendance

Upon resumption all present at the time of adjournment.

11. Finance Services Reports

Moved Cr Murray
Seconded Cr Camp

The Finance Services Officer's Standing Business Papers for Information as presented in Report 11.01.01 to 11.01.02 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 11.02.03 of the Business Papers be received for consideration.

Carried 04.100423

Attendance

Debbie Glyde, Finance Manger and Tomas Ortiz entered the meeting at 2.03pm

11.02.02 Disputed List Pay

A faxed list pay instruction from Council to Westpac dated 6 August 2008 resulted in one creditor on the list not being paid and another creditor on the list being part paid. The shortfall in payment to Council's creditors totalled \$22,088.00. This amount was misdirected to an account unknown to Council. Westpac have agreed to reimburse Council subject to Council signing the Deed Poll.

FILE: BAN/02

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Murray

That Council endorse and sign the Deed Poll from Westpac as it relates to the disputed list pay.

Carried 05.100423

11.02.01 New Signatory to Council's Bank Authority

Approval required to add Deborah Glyde, Finance Manager, as a signatory to Council's bank authorities and signing approval for accounts payments.

FILE: ACC/01

Moved Cr Camp
Seconded Cr Murray

That Council resolve to add Deborah Glyde as a signatory to Council's bank authorities and signing approval for accounts payments in her capacity of an employee of Council.

Carried 06.100423

11.02.03 Revised 2009-10 Budget

FILE: BUD/15

Move Cr Olive
Seconded Cr Forshaw

That the amended budget for 2009/2010 be adopted as presented.

Carried 07.10.0423

Attendance

Debbie Glyde and Tomas Ortiz left the meeting at 2.55pm

Dennis Kerr, Director of Engineering Services attended the meeting at 2.58pm

12. Director Engineering Services Reports

Moved Cr Murry
Seconded Cr Olive

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.

Carried 08.100423

12.02.01 Tenders for Batteries and Tyres, and Graders Assessment and Tenderer Decision Delegation

File: TEN/01.10/01

Tenders were called and received for Tyres and Batteries, and Graders. There was an excellent response to both Tenders, however assessment has been delayed with resources prioritised with targeting the flooding event salvage activities.

The assessments are expected to be completed during the next two weeks and the Director of Engineering Services request that Councils CEO be delegated to certifying the successful tenders in liaison with Councillors and a formal Agenda Item then be endorsement at the May meeting.

The need for this is to allow ordering of the associated goods, this will allow the Tyres and Batteries to be in stock for the commencement of the current works season and to allow the Grader supply if accepted to be compliant with the current years major plant budget hence fulfilling the endorsed annual budget.

Moved Cr Forshaw
Seconded Cr Murray

That Councils CEO be delegated to certifying the successful tenders in liaison with Councillors and be endorsement at the May 2010 meeting

Carried 09.100423

15 New business of an urgent nature admitted by Council

10.02.02 Discussion and Debrief from the Easter 2010 Event

Further discussion was held regarding followup activities to the easter 2010 event.

16. Closure of Meeting

The Chair declared the Meeting closed at 4.40pm
