



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes**

**Tuesday 24 October 2017  
Ordinary Meeting 6:00 PM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

TO BE CONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE KATHERINE CIVIC CENTRE TUESDAY 24 October 2017**

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**1. Welcome to Country**

**2. Opening Prayer**

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

**3. Present**

Mayor Fay Miller  
Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey  
Alderman Lis Clark  
Alderman Jon Raynor  
Alderman Toni Tapp-Coutts  
Alderman John Zelle

**In attendance**

Mr Robert Jennings – Chief Executive Officer  
Mrs Claire Johansson – Director Corporate & Community Services  
Mr David Moore – Acting Director of Works  
Ms Sue Crammond – Executive Assistant to CEO (Minute Taker)

8 x members of the Katherine Community  
1 x member of the Media

**4. Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Apologies: Alderman Matthew Hurley

**5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Clark

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 12 September 2017 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6 / 0

**6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

NIL

## **7. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Elected Member Disclosure of Interest and Declared Interest

NIL

## **8. Mayoral Business to be Considered**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Mayoral Business to be considered.

Mayor's Contribution to be copied here.

Katherine Town Council elected members are now well into the second month of this new term. There have been opportunities provided for upskilling relating to the role in representing our community and this will be ongoing. I am looking forward to working together to achieve positive outcomes for our community.

The Katherine community has been in the media spotlight in a negative manner of late in relation to the PFAS contamination resulting from the use of firefighting foam at RAAF Base Tindal beginning in the late 1980's. It is most unfortunate that we are dealing with a legacy contamination and still in a learning curve of the ongoing effects of PFAS contamination.

Ongoing testing has highlighted the most affected areas of contamination which are located nearer to the RAAF Base Tindal and a specified pathway towards Katherine.

We are working closely with Defence, PAWA, NTEPA, NT Health and the Department of the Chief Minister to ensure we are doing everything possible for the ongoing safety for our community.

Tuesday night was the first meeting of the Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group, which has representation from 6 residents of the Katherine community, Chamber of Commerce, PAWA, Department of Health, Environmental Health Branch, Department of Defence, Department of the Chief Minister, Katherine Region Allied Health Services, Katherine Community Radio, Jawoyn and the CEO Robert Jennings and myself from Katherine Town Council. The Terms of Reference were agreed on by those present. We look forward to full participation by all members at these regular consultation group meetings and the flow of information to the community.

Katherine Town Council in cooperation with the Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Committee has some great development plans for the coming years. CEO Robert Jennings presented these plans to a very disappointing number in attendance at the Civic Centre on Tuesday night. I trust that the next opportunity for the community to view the plans and give your feedback will be taken up in a positive manner. Katherine Town Council is working diligently for the future of our town.

## **9. Correspondence and Documents to be Tabled**

Letter to The Hon. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull MP, Senator The Hon. Marise Payne, Minister of Defence, The Hon. Greg Hunt, Minister for Health – *“Taking Responsibility for Katherine”* - PFAS .

Alderman Raynor – will letter be published after amended and sent off? Yes.

**10. Petitions**

NIL

**11. Questions**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Questions

**11.1 WITH NOTICE**

NIL

**11.2 WITHOUT NOTICE**

NIL

**12. Notice of Motion**

NIL

**13. Report of Officers**

**13.1 Monthly REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SEPTEMBER 2017**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Chief Executive Officer Report

MOVED: Clark / Zelley

Mayor Miller noted on page 2 – “Adam Deer”, should read “Adam Steer”.

The CEO noted that the “Everything Katherine” banner will be the overarching banner for Katherine Town Council’s website and Visitor Information Centre websites.

- Elected Member have requested to be shown around the new website when available.

DM Gazey – Requests some clarification around the financial position of the Hot Springs project.

- CEO – The Hot Springs Project is currently under budget. The next stage is being planned and will need to be carefully managed to continue to come in on budget.

Alderman Raynor – What is the plan for making the Gabion walls secure?

- Mayor Miller – The A/DWS is best placed to ensure the Gabion walls are secured should any issues arise.
- CEO – The walls were designed by a reputable engineer and will shortly be inspected by these engineers.

Mayor Miller – Is there a timeline for the rectification of the ongoing MagiQ issues and are we holding any money to fix it?

- CEO – Will take on notice.

Alderman Clark – asked for clarification of the Council software and programs.

- Civica is the program which runs the Councils finances, financial planning, rates, dog registration data etc.
- MagiQ is a records management and complaints handling system. It is an upgrade of the old InfoExpert software.
- EmergelT are the consultants who provide the support services for our network, including servers and desktops, laptops and iPads.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That the Chief Executive Officer Report for the month of September 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 /0

**13.2 MONTHLY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Corporate and Community Services Reports

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

Mayor Miller – The improvement to the outdoor facilities at the VIC is a very attractive feature and seems to be well patronised. Well done to Maria, the VIC staff and A/DWS for getting the area so well set up. Despite less visitors through the VIC door, it is good to see the financials are on the increase. It will be interesting to see what the proposed Touch Screen Technology actually looks like.

DCCS – The Touch Screen Technology is provided through Tourism NT. It has a good range of products and other VICs have experienced positive testing results. The systems will be for visitors arriving after VIC hours and will allow them to purchase tours and accommodation online, with revenue being processed through the VIC.

DM Gazey – Presenting the award and reading the winning entry at the Young Territory Author's Awards at the Katherine Library was an honour and an enjoyable experience. Thanks to the Mayor for delegating the role to me.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Corporate and Community Services Division for the months of September 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 /0

**13.3 MONTHLY WORKS AND SERVICES DIVISION REPORT FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Works and Services Division Reports

MOVED: Gazey / Clark

Typographical corrections on page 12:

- Replace “new sump pump” to “new sump pump at the cattle yards”.
- Replace “tennis cun” with “tennis club”
- Replace “interment” with “internment”.

Alderman Clark – Clarification of “Tech Collect Scheme”?

A/DSW – It is a Northern Territory Government scheme for the disposal of E-Waste (TVs, computers and other electronic/electrical items). It is free for consumers. Literature on the service and cages for the waste have been supplied by the NTG. The service has also been advertised.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That the report of the Works and Services Division Report for the month of September 2017 be received and noted.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2017**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Financial Report

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Zolley

Page 17 was revised after agenda publication. The additional information was:

*“General revenue used for capital purposes has been increased by \$10,710 to fund the replacement of an air conditioning unit for rental office at the VIC.”*

Typographical correction on page 18.

- Replace “Block Spot funding with “Black Spot funding”.

Mayor Miller suggests a write off of the Weighbridge Debtors on page 19:

Alderman Raynor – Is there chance of recouping the outstanding fees?

- DCCS – Local Govt Accounting Regulations state that once all reasonable efforts have been made to recover the debt, a resolution can be put to Council to write off the debt. Council is working to provide a Report to the next Council Meeting. However, if Council do decided to write the debt off, we can continue our attempts to recover the debt.

Alderman Clark – page 28 – What was the rental of \$12000 to RADS for?

- A/DWS – This was to store the LEDs for the Sportsgrounds lights program which were damaged in transit. The cardboard boxes containing the lights were water damaged as the transport company failed to protect them properly (covered by a canvas tarp) which was insufficient protection for the NT wet season and the boxes melted in the rain. We were advised by the insurance company to store the lights so no further damage could occur whilst the insurance claim was being progressed. The storage fee will be reimbursed as part of the claim.

Alderman Clark – What is the microchipping for dog?

- DCCS – This charge was associated with Doggy Day microchipping promotion.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council endorse the Financial Report for the month of September 2017.

CARRIED: 6 /0

**13.5 COMMUNITY GRANTS – ACCEPTANCE OF SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS**

File: Finance / Grant Funding / KTC Community Grants 2017

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

DM Gazey – Having previously participated as a member of the Community Grants Committee, I now realise, looking at this Report, that there is a very limited amount of information before the Council meeting. I would like to see a brief outline of successful grants, i.e. what the grant will go toward and what they hope to achieve. It would also provide some recognition of the community activities Council are supporting.

- CEO- Those improvements could be easily achieved as the funding submissions to the Committee already contains all that information. It is simply a matter of extracting the detail into the Report.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That Council approve the awarding of the following grants as per the recommendations of the Community Grants Assessment Committee Minutes of Friday 13 October, 2017 on receipt of necessary paperwork and confirmation of any previous grants being acquitted.

**Community Group (Up to \$2,000)**

Organization	Project	Amount
Katherine Community Markets	Promotional Products & Equipment	\$2,000.00
Katherine Museum	New commercial fridge	\$2,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

**Major Event (Maximum \$5,000)**

Organization	Event	Amount
Katherine Regional Arts	Junk Festival 2018	\$5,000.00
KORMSC	Night Meet 2018	\$4,300.00
Top End Rehoming Group	Responsible Pet Ownership Promotional Event	\$5,000.00

Katherine Museum	Wedding Dress Exhibition	\$5,000.00
Katherine & District Show Society	Cultural Activities – Katherine Show 2018	\$2,000.00
Chamber of Commerce (NT)	Katherine Christmas Street Party	\$5,000.00
Katherine Community Markets	Night Markets 2018	\$4,225.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,525.00</b>

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.6 CONSENT TO DELCARE CHARDON STREET, KATHERINE EAST A ROAD**

File: Works / Reports / Report 2017 / OCM General Report

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

DM Gazey – What is the outcome if don't accept the road?

- A/DWS – It would remain an NT Government road.
- CEO – There is a general practice of major roads belonging to NT and Federal Governments and local roads to Council. Part of the negotiations with these entities on road ownership is based on this general practice.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the consent to declare Chardon Street (extension) as a road as requested by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and agree to the transfer of title in fee simple to Council's assets.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**13.7 CONSENT TO DECLARE CASUARINA AND CORMACK STREET INTERSECTION, LOT 3101 A ROAD**

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

**That it be recommended to Council:**

That Council:

1. Endorse the consent to declare Lot 3101, Casuarina and Cormack Street intersection as a Road as requested by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Crown Land Estates), and agree to the transfer of title in fee simple to Council's assets.

CARRIED: 6 / 0



13.8 **COUNCIL DELEGATES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (LGANT)**

File: Government Relations / Meetings / LGANT / Meetings

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

- DM Gazey nominate himself as a delegate and has already received a leave of absence approval from his employment to attend the AGM.
- Tapp Coutts seconded DM Gazey's nomination.
- Alderman Clark nominated Mayor Miller. The nomination was seconded by Alderman Tapp Coutts.

**That it be recommended to Council:**

1. That it nominate two Katherine Town Council representatives to the LGANT Annual General Meeting and Conference.
2. That it notifies the LGANT CEO of the nominated delegates.
3. That it approves the attendance of the nominated delegates at the LGANT Annual General Meeting in Alice Springs, if required.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.9 **LGANT NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

File: Government Relations / Meetings / LGANT / Meetings

MOVED: Clark / Tapp Coutts

Alderman Tapp Coutts nominated Alderman Zelle. The nomination was seconded by Alderman Clark.

**That it be recommended to Council to:**

1. Determine if a nomination is to be made and
2. Endorse any such nomination through a formal resolution and notify LGANT.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

13.10 **NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – YOUTH JUSTICE REINVESTMENT PROJECT**

File: Community Relations / Meetings / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Gazey / Raynor

Alderman Hurley self-nominated for this position. However, due to Alderman Hurley's absence and unable to verbally accept his nomination, the matter was held over.

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. Determine if a nomination is to be made and
2. Endorse any such nomination through a formal resolution and notify LGANT

CARRIED: 0 / 0

This Report will be brought to the November Ordinary Meeting of Council.

### **13.11 NOMINATIONS TO REPRESENT ON COMMITTEES – RISE VENTURE'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

File: Community Relations / Meetings / Elected Member Representatives on Committees

MOVED: Clark / Gazey

Nomination Alderman Raynor by Alderman Zelley and seconded Alderman Clark

That it be recommended to Council to:

1. Determine if a nomination is to be made and
2. Endorse any such nomination through a formal resolution and notify Rise Ventures.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

## **14. Reports from Representatives on Committees**

### Deputy Mayor Gazey

Declaration Announcement  
Swearing In Ceremony  
Main Street Community Forum  
Elected Members Town Tour  
Police Remembrance Day Service  
September Council Meeting  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Information Sessions  
Rise Venture Barbeque – Shed Opening  
Young Author Awards Presentation

### Alderman Clark

Declaration Announcement  
Swearing In Ceremony  
Main Street Community Forum  
Elected Members Information Sessions  
Open Forum  
September Council Meeting  
Elected Members Town Tour

Police Remembrance Day Service  
Rise Venture Barbeque – Shed Opening

Alderman Raynor

Swearing In Ceremony  
Elected Member Information Sessions  
September Council Meeting  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Town Tour  
Corporate Financial Services Committee Meeting

Alderman Tapp Coutts

Swearing In Ceremony  
Main Street Community Forum  
Elected Information Sessions  
September Council Meeting  
Open Forum  
Elected Members Town Tour  
Police Remembrance Day Service  
Corporate Financial Service Committee Meeting  
Book Launch “What a Woman” Katherine Museum  
Katherine Region of Writers Meeting  
GYRACC Board Meeting

Alderman Zelle

Swearing In Ceremony  
Police Remembrance Day Service  
Elected Members Town Tour  
Elected Members Information sessions  
September Council Meeting  
Open Forum

Alderman Matthew Hurley

Swearing In Ceremony  
September Council Meeting  
Elected Member Information Sessions  
Elected Members Town Tour  
Open Forum

**15. Late Agenda Items**

MOVED: Tapp Coutts / Gazey

To accept the late agenda items.

CARRIED: 6 / 0

**15.1 Confirmation of Special Meeting of Council Minutes – 11 October 2017**  
**EOI – 17/05 Collection of Scrap Metal**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Clark / Zelle

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on the 11 October 2017 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6/0

**15.2 Confirmation of Special Meeting of Council Minutes – 11 October 2017**  
**T17/2 Airport GA & RPT Apron Remediation**

File: Local Governance / Council Meetings / Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MOVED: Clark / Zelley

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on the 11 October 2017 be confirmed as true and accurate.

CARRIED 6/0

**15.3 Tender 17/08 – SUPPLY AND DELIVER ONE TRACKED LOADER WASTE HANDLER**

File Tender / Works / Waste Management Facility – Supply and Deliver one Tracked Load Waste Handler

MOVED: Gazey / Zelley

DM Gazey – Dose the Report offer only one option because there is only one machine suitable to the job required?

A/DSW – This is an upgraded model of our current machine. The tender was open to all comers, but it is a specialist machine and there are only two suppliers in Australia. One supplier decided not to tender as they would not be able to offer the support services tp the machine. The USA supplier has been able to provide those support services.

Mayor Miller commented that she appreciated the option not to trade in old machine as it is still useful to the WMF.

A/DSW – It is an old machine, a 2011 model with 8000 hrs worked. The life expectancy of these vehicles is ~6 yrs or 6000 hrs. We have had a number of necessary refurb done to keep this machine working. With such a significant investment made in the machine, it is a better option to retain it, as a backup if for no other reason.

**That it be recommended to Council that it:**

Accepts Option one(1) - no Trade option of \$511,500 GST exclusive submitted, by Hastings Deering for Tender 17/08 – Supply and Delivery of One (1) Tracked Loader Waste Handler.

CARRIED: 6/0

## 16. General Business

Alderman response to an item raised at the Open Forum regarding elected members not attending the Shine Lawyers event.

*Alderman Clark - As an elected member, I have gone to all PFAS meeting and I didn't think it appropriate for me to attend this one. I understand the resident's feelings as I too am a long term resident of Katherine. We don't know what PFAS levels were years ago. I do know people who have passed from cancer, but was that caused by PFAS? We don't know.*

*As Alderman, we are certainly concerned about the impact on our residents. To suggest we are not caring is incorrect. I think we have done our best but we can't please everyone.*

*Alderman Tapp Coutts – I concur with Alderman Clark's comments. I personally am not interested in joining legal action. Council need to display solidarity. We are in this together and will keep focused on the way forward.*

*Some local RAAF personnel, who had nothing to do with the current PFAS situation, are feeling alienated and unwelcome. We need to be sensitive to that as well.*

*DM Gazey – I did consider attending the event, but didn't think it was a Council decision. I do not intend to be part of any class action.*

*Mayor Miller – I didn't attend the event as I believe it is still a highly emotive issue and Council are doing the best they can to move toward solutions for the town. A class action is not a focus for Council. I attended the PFAS Consultative Group the night prior to the Shine Lawyers event. It is false to state that we, Council or Alderman, do not care.*

*DM Gazey – Meningococcal "W" Vaccination program is available for the target age group of 12mth to 19 years old. Vaccination is free for this target group.*

*Alderman Tapp Coutts – Notes her absence from Council from 29 November – 12 January inclusive. I will be volunteering in Thailand and Cambodia.*

## 17. Confidential Items

NIL

## 18. Next Ordinary Meeting of Council

The tenth Ordinary Meeting of Council for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 28 November 2017.

## 19. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Fay Miller  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**