

Meeting opened with the reading of the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge at 3.15pm by Robert Williri who has been designated Chair at this Manyallaluk Local Authority Meeting.

1. Present:

Elected Members:

Nil

Local Authority Members:

Robert Williri (Chair)
Shaunette Mumbin
Eileen Lawrence
Rosemary Sullivan

Roper Gulf Regional Council Staff:

Anne-Maree Low - Council Services Manager
Marc Runyu - Municipal Services Officer
Nelson Peters - Municipal Services Officer
Belinda Dooley - Customer Services Officer
Sharon Hillen - Director Council Services and Infrastructure
Jo Nicol - Local Authority Coordination Officer
Tony Moss - Night Patrol Coordinator

Visitors/Guests:

Daisy-Bell Williri
Sharon Williri
Phillip Krakouer
Rachael Kendino
Tom Girdler - Northern Territory Housing

2. Apologies:

Isaac Dai
Cynthia Andrews
Andrew Hood
Cr Anne-Marie Lee
Cr Selina Ashley
Cr John Dalywater
Nicholas Sarah - Department Local Government.

Moved: Eileen Lawrence

Seconded: Rosemary Sullivan

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

All agreed by way of consensus

Moved: Rosemary Sullivan

Seconded: Shaunette Mumbin

4. Conflict of Interest

Nil

5. Business Arising/Action List;

5.1. Previous minutes action List

Robert Williri to show Anne-Maree Low where placement of (2) new solar lights are to be placed to eliminate dark spots in Central Park - **Ongoing**

6. Correspondence

6.1. **Outgoing Correspondence:** Nil

6.2. **Incoming Correspondence:**

- Letter Department of Local Government and Community Services-Local Authority Project Funding Confirmation.

7. General Business

7.1. *Elected Member's Report:

Nil

7.2. *Council Service Manager's Report:

- **Council Services Update:**
Council Services Manager Anne-Maree Low provided Council Services report. Anne-Maree reported that:
 - Clearing of metal items, car parts, buffalo bones, household items, rocks, furniture etc removed from behind the community to the East and West, to enable safe and regular slashing and mowing of these areas to reduce fire and buffalo hazards.
 - Airstrip is well maintained for aircraft.
 - Rubbish dump is neat and tidy.
 - Litter around community – in Central Park, on footpaths, in open spaces and along the road – is still at disappointing levels for such a small community. Picking up litter wastes Municipal services time and effort that could be put into more productive projects for example; making headstones for each grave site or painting games for children on the concrete slabs in Central Park or installing park table and benches in park.
 - Irrigation of parks and open areas is underway. Central Park ok but Tourist Park irrigation system now requires repairs to stop a leak.
 - Buffalo damaged fencing to residents Lots is being replaced and new fencing for duplexes Lot 58 & 59 currently underway.

- *** Work Health and Safety:**

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen informed members that a WH&S notice about Australian bat lyssavirus has been distributed by the NT Government, warning residents not to touch flying foxes – either alive or dead. Bats carry a virus similar to the rabies virus which can be fatal. Members were asked to contact the Council Service Manager if they need a bat removed.

7.3 *** Council Financial Reports**

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen explained the Council Financial Reports: Forth Quarter Report for Financial Year 2014-15 for Manyallaluk.

7.4 *** Governance Updates:**

- ***Town Priorities: Local Authority Project Funding**

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen asked the Members to decide on which of the Town Priorities project the Local Authority grant of \$14,786 is to be spent.

Sharon also advised that Local Authority may consider using the money to finish the upgrade to the basketball court which still requires works as follows:

- Putting a cement border about 1 or 2 meters wide around the basketball court to stop dirt and stones getting onto the court and also to fill the gap between the court and back fences.
- Pave between the basketball court and stage, creating wide seating and a water course.
- Cement under the spectator stands to stop weeds.
- Purchase another set of spectator stands if there is enough money.

Sharon advised members to consider using each grant to complete existing projects first, before starting new projects.

ACTION: Local Authority members and community to think about what they would like to spend the new 2015-16 Local Authority Project Funding of \$14,786 on, keeping in mind the Town Priority List of Projects (see Regional Plan 2015-16 pg 68), to benefit the community.

- *** Complaints Register:**

Local Authority Members were reminded to formally register complaints with the Council Service Manager so they can be tabled for discussion and actioned.

- ***Policy Updates:**

Nil

- ***Regional Plan 2015-2016**

Copies of the new Roper Gulf Regional Plan were distributed to Local Authority members and copies left with the Council Service Manager. Members were informed that an electronic copy is available on the website.

The Manyallaluk Budget and Town Priorities were discussed.

7.3. *RJCP- Remote Jobs and Communities Program:

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen informed members that RJCP is undergoing Federal Government changes making implementation of the program difficult at this time.

7.4. *Alcohol Management Plan:

Nil

8. Other Business

8.1. Buffalo roaming the community at night still pose a safety risk

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen suggested members speak to the buffalo catching business currently operating out of the community to try to catch buffalo roaming into the community at night.

8.2. Speeding cars around local roads cause concern for residents.

Council Services Manager Anne-Maree Low informed members that a bulk quote for speed bumps is currently being sort by the Barunga Council Services Manager. Other Roper Gulf Regional Council towns are experiencing similar issues with speeding cars.

It was noted that the newly installed fence outside the basketball court has stopped children chasing balls across the road in front of the clinic.

ACTION: Once quotes have been received Council Services Manager to purchase and install speed humps in Manyallaluk.

8.3. Night Patrol

Night Patrol Coordinator Tony Moss explained to members that Robert Williri is undertaking a nine week course to help assist Night Patrol perform their duties in the community. Night Patrol can only report incidents to the police, they do not have authority to restrain people or remove alcohol from people etc. Tony encouraged members to phone the police and record their complaint if they were worried about any situation in the community. The more complaints the police have about an issue, the greater the likelihood the police will attend to the matter.

8.4. *Sport and Rec Hall Project:

Members were advised that Roper Gulf Regional Council has employed a consultant, Martin Lambert to visit towns and advise council about future sport & recreation planning (including facilities) in each town. Mr Lambert's draft report for Manyallaluk will be tabled for discussion at a Local Authority meeting once it has been submitted to Council.

8.5. *Road Maintenance:

Local Authority members enquired about having Eva Valley Road regularly graded to maintain a safe road surface.

Members were advised that Eva Valley Road surface grading is due to commence this week (24 August 2015). The purchase order has been issued to the contractor. This grade will focus on upgrading bad spots.

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen explained that Council is seeking permission and a licence from TO's to utilise gravel pits along Eva Valley Road to do the upgrades and plan long-term solutions to maintain this road. Sharon also explained that \$49,000 is allocated to Eva Valley Road maintenance with includes:

- First grade in July before Wet Season
- Second grade and major works after Wet Season

The cost of sealing roads is very expensive. Members were explained that it costs around \$500,000 per kilometre to build a single lane road (eg. Central Arnhem HWY) therefore it is unlikely given the small population at Manyallaluk, that Eva Valley Road would be priorities for this type of extensive expense. Regular grading is the only option at the present.

8.6. *Water Safety

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen will approach Royal Life Saving to come and provide water safety education with the community.

The Spring Pool is accumulating silt and members have asked the Council to clean the bottom of the pool.

- ACTION:** Director Council Services and Infrastructure to contact Royal Life Saving.
ACTION: Council Services Manager to organise silt to be removed from the Spring Pool.

8.7. *Mud Brick Buildings (Old Cattle Station buildings)

Members raised their concern that children might enter these deteriorating/unsafe buildings. One solution proposed was to erect child proof fencing around each of the four mud brick buildings.

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen informed members that attempts to secure funding to restore these buildings has been unsuccessful and that these buildings are not heritage listed. Jawoyn Assoc is responsible for the buildings. Roper Gulf Regional Council is responsible for mowing the grass around the buildings.

- ACTION:** Local Authority to write to Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation and enquire about
- Jawoyn's short and long term plans for these buildings
 - can they erect child-proof fencing around each building

8.8. *BBQ Area in Central Park

Members expressed that they would like to see a BBQ area created in Central Park. This is to be a RJCP/Municipal project which could perhaps utilise one of the existing concrete slabs in the park.

Members were advised that current RJCP funding does not provide for projects so alternate funding will have to be sought.

8.9. *Housing Issues

Members expressed concern over the lack of housing in Manyallaluk and the unfair housing allocations. Some houses are supporting up to 16 people whereas other houses are empty with the tenant absent for many months. Another issue is friends/relatives are allowed to live in a house for many months while the tenant lives in another community.

Two community members are trying to live in buildings that do not come under any organisation and are struggling with repairs and maintenance at their own expense.

Tom Girdler from NT Housing representative told members that no more houses will be built in Manyallaluk because of the small population.

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen explained that housing is a Federal Government issue and advised members to contact the following:

- NT Housing
- Local Members such as Bess Price MLA, Federal Member Warren Snowden, Minister Nigel Scullion

8.10. *Restore Abandoned Buildings and Open a Pop-up Store

Members explored the idea of restoring some of the abandoned buildings in the community for housing and business purposes such as a pop-up shop that supplies the community with milk, power cards, bread etc.

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen explained that Northern Land Council administers the land – not what is on it. Sharon suggested members obtain advice from the following sources:

- Lisa Mumbin – Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
- Helen Lee –Northern Land Council Representative
- New Aboriginal Affairs Office

8.11. *Rubbish Run Twice Per Week

Members mentioned that they would now like Rubbish Run to be conducted each Monday and Thursday. The Council Services manager will organise for the roster to change to these days.

8.12. *Neem Trees

Director Council Services and Infrastructure Sharon Hillen informed members that Neem trees have been declared a species of weed in the Northern Territory because of the damage they do to waterways and should be removed or poisoned if located in the community.

Members informed Council of one Neem tree in the park and another in a resident's yard. Council will kill and remove the Neem tree in the park and the resident will either kill the tree themselves (remove or poison the tree with Access/Diesel mixture) or report the Neem tree to NT Housing.

9. Meeting Closed 5.20pm

Next meeting: Monday 21st September 2015

As the Chair at the Manyallaluk Local Authority Meeting held on the 24th August 2015 I certify these minutes to be a true and correct record of this meeting.

Chairperson Robert Williri