

The following document is the minutes of the Council and Committee meetings held on 3 March 2005. These minutes are subject to confirmation as to their accuracy at the next meeting to be held on 17 March 2005 and therefore subject to change. Please refer to minutes of 17 March 2005 for confirmation.



COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
(CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE)
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR
3 MARCH 2005

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COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
(CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE)
3 MARCH 2005

Present: Councillors K D Rhoades (Mayor), I D Hogbin (Deputy Mayor), J C Bonfield, W D Featherstone, C O Joass, R W McKelvey, I J Ovens, W R Palmer, G R Smithers.

Staff: General Manager, Director of City Business Units, Acting Director of Planning, Environment and Development, Director of Corporate Services, Director of City Services and Executive Assistant.

The meeting commenced at 5.15pm with the Mayor, Cr K D Rhoades in the chair.

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

- 23** **RESOLVED** (McKelvey/Joass) that the Ordinary Meeting of Council be adjourned and Council now resolve into the Corporate Services Committee meeting, the time being 5.15 pm.

The Mayor invited Councillor Hogbin to chair the Corporate Services Committee.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

F10 MONTHLY BUDGET REVIEW FOR JANUARY 2005

To report on the estimated budget position as at 31 January 2005.

- C1 RECOMMENDED** (Rhoades/Ovens) that the estimated budget position as at 31 January 2005, as follows, be noted:

	General Account \$		Water Account \$		Sewer Account \$	
Original Budget	507,161	(D)	39,600	(D)	380,005	(D)
Approved variations to 31 December 2004	123,749	(S)	23,802	(S)	76,019	(S)
Recommended variations for January 2005	10,000	(D)	Nil		Nil	
Estimated result 2004/05 as at 31 January 2005	<u>393,412</u>	(D)	<u>15,798</u>	(D)	<u>303,986</u>	(D)

F11 COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES JULY TO DECEMBER 2004

To report to Council on those expenses that Councillors have chosen to claim for the period July to December 2004.

- C2 RECOMMENDED** (Joass/Smithers):

1. That the information be noted.
2. All future reports include Councillor telephone costs (including land lines and mobile phones).

MOTION

MOVED (Joass/Palmer) that the motion be put.

The motion on being put to the meeting was lost.

The recommendation on being put to the meeting was carried.

F12 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PURCHASE OF A GRAND PIANO

To report to Council on the request from the Coffs Harbour Music Society for financial assistance in the acquisition of a new performance quality concert grand piano to be housed at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus.

C3 RECOMMENDED (Rhoades/McKelvey):

1. That a grant of \$4,000 be offered to the Coffs Harbour Music Society towards the cost of acquisition by them of a new performance quality concert grand piano to be housed at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus.
2. That a loan of \$11,000 at an interest rate of 6.5% per annum and repayable over six years be offered to the Society to further assist with the acquisition.
3. That the General Manager investigate whether the grand piano owned by the Council is required by Council for any good purpose, either now or in the foreseeable future, and if not, to dispose of same.

F13 OUTSTANDING REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION

To provide Council with an update of requests for reports and previous resolutions to Council awaiting implementation.

C4 RECOMMENDED (Smithers/Featherstone) the report be noted.

F14 BANK BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2005

To list Council's Bank Balances and Investments as at 31 January 2005.

C5 RECOMMENDED (Palmer/Ovens) the Bank Balances and Investments totalling One hundred and one million, six hundred & ninety two thousand, six hundred & thirty seven dollars (\$101,692,637) as at 31 January 2005 be noted.

CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

S10 NANA GLEN SPORT, RECREATION AND EQUESTRIAN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE LOAN REQUEST

To seek approval for a \$10,000 loan to the Nana Glen Sport, Recreation and Equestrian Centre Management Committee for the replacement of the roof and fence the structure housing the onsite caravan.

C6 RECOMMENDED (McKelvey/Joass) that the Nana Glen Sport, Recreation and Equestrian Centre Management Committee be given a loan of \$10,000 to replace the roof and fence the structure housing the onsite caravan on the following terms and conditions;

1. The \$10,000 to be loaned at 6.5% per annum on the basis of repayments over four years by monthly installments of \$237.15 (principal and interest combined);
2. Repayment to be by bank transfer direct to Council's bank account;
3. Reports covering expenditure and financial position will be made available to Council as requested.

S11 TENDERS: CONSTRUCTION OF REUSE DAMS AT MORGANS ROAD WEST - CONTRACT NO. 04/05-193-TO

To report on tenders received for the construction of reuse dams at Morgans Road West and to gain Council approval to accept a tender.

MOTION

C7 MOVED (Ovens/Joass) that the matter be deferred to the Planning, Environment & Planning meeting on 17 March 2005 pending further investigation.

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried.

S12 TENDERS: CONSTRUCTION OF REUSE PIPELINES AT MORGANS ROAD WEST - CONTRACT NO. 04/05-194-TO

To report on tenders received for the construction of reuse pipelines at Morgans Road West and to gain Council approval to accept a tender.

MOTION

- C8 MOVED** (Ovens/Joass) that the matter be deferred to the Planning, Environment & Planning meeting on 17 March 2005 pending further investigation.

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried.

CONCLUSION OF CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman advised that the business of the Corporate Services Committee was concluded and invited the Mayor to resume the chair.

OPEN COUNCIL

The Mayor requested a motion to close the Committee meeting and move into Open Council.

- C9 RECOMMENDED** (Palmer/Smithers) that the Committee now move into Open Council.

The Mayor resumed chairmanship of the meeting at 6.05 pm.

ADOPTION OF CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

- 24 RESOLVED** (Palmer/McKelvey) that the recommendations of the Corporate Services Committee meeting be received and adopted.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. Development Applications for the Corindi/ Red Rock areas

Cr Palmer asked whether development applications for the Corindi/ Red Rock area are able to proceed.

The General Manager advised that Coffs Harbour City Council is still the Local Government Authority for the area in question until the Boundaries Commission makes a determination and that Council will continue to process development applications until a determination is made.

2. Noxious Weeds

Cr Bonfield asked whether there is a land care group for the Korora Valley, and if not, what are the responsibilities of the Council for the removal of exotic weeds?

Councils City Parks Manager advised there is not an official landcare group in the Korora Valley and there is uncertainty as to whether funds are available from the Environmental levy administered by DIPNR for the reclamation of banana land. However Council staff are currently addressing the noxious weed problem in the Korora Valley.

Cr Bonfield enquired about the responsibilities which rate payers have for the removal of large tree noxious weeds and the level of assistance given by the Council.

Councils City Parks Manager advised that Council has been offering a 50% subsidy through the Environmental Levy program for the removal of tree noxious weeds and that the specific species involved are commonly known as Chinese Celtis and Brazilian Pepper. Additional funding is also available through the North Coast Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.

Cr Featherstone recommended the formation of a Noxious Weeds Committee comprising of representatives from Council staff, Councillors, Environmental groups, nursery staff, and interested locals, to not only educate the community but also receive feedback as to the location of noxious weeds. The suggested role of the Committee is to provide information to the Weeds Officer and Council staff with regards to priorities for weed removal.

Cr Bonfield advised the meeting of her intention to lodge a Notice of Motion for consideration on 17 March 2005 on this issue.

Cr Smithers advised that limited funds are available through the Catchment Management Authority to assist in the reforestation of disused banana plantations. However, it was acknowledged that there are not enough funds available through the Authority to solve this issue.

cont'd

Questions Without Notice (cont'd)

2. Noxious Weeds (cont'd)

Cr Palmer questioned if the top of a large tree noxious weed is cut and removed and the stump is poisoned, would it be acceptable to leave the stump in place.

Councils City Parks Manager advised that cutting the top and poisoning the stump is all that is required to satisfy the Noxious Weeds Act. However, Chinese Celtis, for example, is a softwood and rots quickly and would potentially collapse within 5-10 years, therefore creating another problem for land holders to deal with in the future.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Safety of Children on School Buses

Cr McKelvey expressed safety concerns for children travelling on school buses, such as overcrowding, children being required to stand whilst travelling, and inconsistencies between laws for the use of seatbelts in school buses and private cars.

Mayor Rhoades suggested that Council resolve to write to local bus companies expressing the concerns of the Council, which also include the mechanical integrity of the old buses which are currently replacing the modern fleet. The implementation of a minimum standard for local bus fleets was suggested.

The General Manager advised of possible opportunities with leveraging from public consultation being undertaken in Port Macquarie on the issue, and making joint submission to the State Government given we share the same operator throughout the region.

Cr Hogbin suggested the problem is State Government based. He suggested that the repercussion of compulsory introduction of seat belts on school buses is an increase in Government subsidies being paid to bus operators by as much as 50% due to less children being able to travel on each bus. Therefore there is a financial issue which will also need to be addressed. Additionally, with regards to old buses being introduced to local bus fleets, Cr Hogbin highlighted the issue of 'average fleet age', which allows bus companies to have a range of both new and old buses whilst still complying with the 'average fleet age' rule.

General Business (cont'd)

2. Presentations to Townsville Community

Cr Hogbin congratulated Steve Sawtell - Director of City Services, Sonia Wallace – President: Chamber of Commerce and Lee McDougall - Editor of the Coffs Coast Advocate who addressed Townsville traders and business operators on the process which the Coffs Harbour City Council went through in order to transform the City Centre Mall back to a vehicular thoroughfare.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 6.22 pm.

Confirmed: 17 March 2005

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K D Rhoades
Mayor