MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2012
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BEES CREEK ROAD, FRED'S PASS

Present:
Allan McKay Mayor
Mike Bowman Deputy Mayor/East Ward
Victor Statham Councillor/South Ward
Terry Richards Councillor/Central Ward
Mathew Salter Councillor/North Ward
Russell Anderson Chief Executive Officer
Anna Malgorzewicz Public Relations and Community Support Officer
Marlene Watt Council Secretary
Aisla Connolly Acting Council Secretary

Public:
Barbara Crane Howard Springs
S Austerberry Howard Springs
M Bowman Howard Springs
Mary Walshe Humpty Doo
Judy Cole Humpty Doo
P Cole Humpty Doo

1. OPENING OF MEETING:

The Mayor, Allan McKay opened the Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Apologies from John Delaney Director Planning and Works.
Mayor, Allan McKay will be away from 16th June 2012 returning 6th July 2012.
Deputy Mayor, Mike Bowman will be absent from 20th June 2012 returning 6th July 2012

This is page 1 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2012

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
4. PUBLIC FORUM:

S Austerberry and M Bowman advised they had come tonight to find out if there has been any further development in relation to the flooding problems in the Draper, Whitewood and Inman Road area. Discussion of the area included Fitzgerald and Madsen Roads and the difference in levels of the area. The Mayor advised that there is an allocation in the proposed Budget for 2012/2013 to look at fixing the problem.

Mr Bowman would like to thank Council and well done on prompt and efficient service, as he had phoned Council to advise of slashing requirements and pot holes that needed fixing at Middle Point and the issues were resolved within a week.

Barbara Crane advised that she had several issues she wished to raise with Council. The first being the change of opening hours at the waste transfer stations. Council has made a decision without consulting the community after promising to do so. The way she had found out was by a flyer being handed to her at the waste transfer station at Howard Springs. She strongly believed that there was a need for the waste transfer stations to remain open the two hours from 6am to 7am and 6pm to 7pm. Council advised that they had looked at the statistics and believed that the waste transfer stations were not greatly utilised during the proposed closing hours and it would result in a saving for ratepayers. The Mayor advised that this information was in the Municipal Plan to be commented on by the public before being implemented.

Barbara Crane then engaged Council in discussion on recycling issues with Council giving an overview on the past history where minimal recycling was attempted up until the present, where residents have been embracing recycling thereby reducing the cost to Council. Next year’s figures from statistics will give a good indication if recycling is increasing or decreasing. The Mayor advised they were aware of the issues and that it was a work in progress.

Barbara Crane again requested Council to address Nature Strips from the last Ordinary Meeting and suggested Council offer a reward system to encourage residents to maintain their own nature strips by perhaps Council supplying a tree to plant. Discussion took place for and against the idea and the pitfalls for Council. The Mayor advised that the Council are aware of the problem and has taken on board her suggestions, that it would be discussed and Council would
advise her of any outcomes in due course, however pointed out that Council has many other issues with higher priority that Council is analysing various ways to fix. Mary Walshe pointed out that Council does have policies on matters like road verges, tree planting etc.

5. ACCEPTING OR DECLINING LATE ITEMS: Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

6.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held Tuesday 22<sup>ND</sup> May 2012.

The Mayor, Allan McKay, called for confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held Tuesday 22<sup>ND</sup> May 2012.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 22<sup>ND</sup> May 2012 held are confirmed in full by full Council.

MOVED: V. STATHAM
SECONDED: T. RICHARDS
CARRIED

6.2 Minutes of the Special Meeting held Tuesday 29<sup>TH</sup> May 2012.

The Mayor, Allan McKay, called for confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held Tuesday 29<sup>TH</sup> May 2012.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>TH</sup> May 2012 held are confirmed in full by full Council.

MOVED: T. RICHARDS
SECONDED: M. SALTER
CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil

This is page 3 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
8. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND WORKS REPORT: JUNE Nil

8A BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND WORKS REPORT - JUNE Nil

9. POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS:

9.1 PA12/CAM/056: COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY:

It was resolved that Council endorse the Complaints Handling Policy.

MOVED: T. RICHARDS
SECONDED: M. BOWMAN
CARRIED

9.2 PA12/TR/002 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (TOPROC)

It was resolved that Council agree:-

a) to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (TOPROC) pending notification of the fee of Membership.

b) to authorize the signing by the Mayor and CEO of the Memorandum of Agreement when required.

MOVED: M. BOWMAN
SECONDED: M. SALTER
CARRIED

10. FINANCE AND RECREATION MATTERS:

10.1 FR12/RA/023 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER - RATES NOTICE MAIL OUT

It was resolved that Council:

This is page 4 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2012.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
a) includes a newsletter in its annual Rate Notice mail-out

b) agrees the “newsletter” will take the form of an A5 format booklet of 12 pages.

MOVED: T. RICHARDS
SECONDED: M. BOWMAN
CARRIED

11. PLANNING AND WORKS MATTERS:

11.1 PW12/RDC/035 WEBB ROAD: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF UNMADE SECTION OF ROAD

It was resolved that Council:-

a) write (registered mail) to all affected property owners who MAY access from the proposed restricted road reserve and ask for a response within a time frame.

b) contact the relevant fire protection authority.

c) erect the fence and close the road following a positive response from the affected parties.

MOVED: V. STATHAM
SECONDED: M. SALTER
CARRIED

12. MAYOR’S REPORT: MAY (2)

The Mayor, Allan McKay reported that he had attended his first Darwin Harbor Advisory Committee Meeting. The main issues discussed were the impact or non impact that Inpex could have with the dredging, and blasting in the harbor. There will be monitoring of any impact on sea life in particular dugongs and turtles.

The Mayor advised that he had spent some hours at the Humpty Doo and Howard Springs Waste Transfer Stations on Saturday and Sunday speaking to people. Several points were
raised such as roads deteriorating, rubbish being dumped near Redcliffe Road and other locations, why we don’t have an oil drum for old oil, and that there is no tap at HDWTS to wash hands after dumping rubbish.

The Mayor advised he had conducted his first Australian Citizenship Ceremony last week which was a Council staff member, Miguel Alarcon and that he would be conducting another ceremony tomorrow with seven candidates.

The Mayor would be attending his first Development Consent Authority Meeting on Friday and next week would be attending, along with the Chief Executive Officer, the Australian Local Government Associations Conference in Canberra. At the completion of the Conference they would be visiting other Councils to view their recycling centres.

It was resolved that the Mayor’s Report be noted.

MOVED: V. STATHAM  
SECONDED: M. SALTER  
CARRIED

13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT: JUNE

The Chief Executive Officer, Russell Anderson advised that tomorrow he would forward the letter from the Department of Local Government endorsing the Complaint Handling Policy that Council adopted tonight.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Darwin City Council has increased fees to dump at Shoal Bay Waste to $71.50 (waste management expenses).

It was resolved that the Chief Executive Officer’s Report be noted.

MOVED: M. BOWMAN  
SECONDED: V. STATHAM  
CARRIED

14. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS: JUNE  

Nil

This is page 6 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2012

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Judy Cole, Candidate for the Country Liberals for Nelson has been door knocking and received feedback from a dog customer who was happy with the Regulator Services response to her issue but still has the issue. Another resident had complained about the number of road trains between 12th and 19th May carting from the quarry on Goode road. Mayor McKay advised Judy Cole to advise the constituents to phone Council immediately when there are issues and report it, we will then enforce the 10Tonne limit or whatever the case maybe. Other issues raised were Inpex Camp buffer zones, accidents on Howard Springs Road from entrance of vehicles from Stow Road as there appears to be a blind spot exacerbated by road trains, planning application on Thorngate Road, and concerns regarding the Ad “The Springs” selling Duplex accommodation in the rural area. The Mayor advised that these issues were controlled by Government not Council.

Barbara Crane advised she was having difficulty in following issues and viewing the Minutes and Agendas on the Website as some issues take longer than 3 years to sort out. It was suggested that she look at the Annual Reports on the Website and was advised of the process of how correspondence and issues become an agenda item, as it depends on whether the topic requires Council to make a decision and resolution on the issue. She was advised that if you bring a letter to a Council meeting it will be minuted and discussed.

Mary Walshe congratulated the new Councillors to their positions and wished to discuss Council issues. Mary Walshe pointed out issues within the Municipal Plan and asked if Council had written to the people who are getting road seal to advise them so that they can budget for that expense? Also what was the situation with the rate review as Council had adopted a commercial rate and would the Council be addressing the other parts of the review. Mary Walshe suggested Litchfield Council has gone away from flat rate without consulting the community. Council members discussed the need to implement a commercial rate due to development in the Municipality, also the need to address the Grant Commissions concerns and that the flat rate still applied to all residences.
Mary Walshe asked why the Council had not included two rate instalments and it was pointed out that rate payers currently do pay instalments fortnightly, monthly, etc. Mary Walshe suggested Council had given themselves a 100% pay increase. Councillors pointed out the payment was meeting the Ministerial guidelines and they pay own tax, no mileage, no Fringe Benefits Tax for the vehicle. Also the Municipality is the fastest growing place in the Territory and Council sees the need to address the issues with a full time Mayor. Mary Walshe discussed Commercial business’ not paying waste. It was identified that most Commercial businesses do not utilise the Council’s waste transfer stations. e.g. Woolworths have own compactors and removal process. The Mayor offered to provide the numbers of businesses to be rated that manage their own waste.

Discussion centred on the road program including Finn Road, alleviate Highway bottleneck and to finish sealing the road. The money has been diverted from Byers, Brougham and gone to Reedbeds Road.

Mary Walshe questioned if Litchfield Council achieved the Repairs and Maintenance works that was budgeted for and if she could have a copy of the program. Council agreed for the Mayor to provide a copy Mary Walshe advised she will email questions regarding the end of July budget meeting.

17. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS: JUNE

Councillor Matthew Salter advised that he had attended a meeting regarding the Defence personnel increase of 250 troops at Robertson Barracks and that over time there may be an increase of an extra 2,500 troops from the USA Air Force and that there would be consultation with the community.

Councillor Mathew Salter reported that he had minuted the Meeting with Inpex and would send them through to the Chief Executive Officer.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS: JUNE  

Nil

19. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN MEETING: 

NIL

This is page 8 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2012

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
20. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS: NIL

21. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 26\textsuperscript{TH} JUNE 2012

Due to The Mayor Allan McKay, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Michael Bowman being absent from the next Ordinary Meeting it was resolved that Councillor Victor Statham chair the meeting.

MOVED: M. SALTER
SECONDED: M. BOWMAN
CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

MINUTES CONFIRMED
26TH JUNE 2012

..............................................
MAYOR

..............................................
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This is page 9 of 9 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held TUESDAY 12\textsuperscript{TH} JUNE 2012

..............................................
MAYOR

..............................................
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER