

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2020, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held via Zoom

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor D. Ryan
Councillor G. Auricht
Councillor J. Cocking
Councillor E. Melky (Chair)
Councillor M. Paterson
Councillor J. Price
Councillor M. Banks
Councillor J. de Brenni
Councillor C. Satour

OFFICERS: Mr R. Jennings - Chief Executive Officer
Mr S. Allen - Director Technical Services
Mr S. Duke - Acting Director Community Development
Ms S. Taylor - Director Corporate Services
Ms T. Ociones - Executive Assistant (Minutes)

The meeting was declared open at 8:49pm

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC, VISITORS AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes - Technical Services Committee - 16 March 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the minutes of the open section of the Technical Services Committee meeting held on 16 March 2020 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting

(4665 ts)
CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

4.2.1 Councillor Cocking – Agenda Item 9.1, Directorate Update

Councillor Cocking asked if the Director Technical Services engaged a company in February to crush steel?

The Director Technical Services advised that Council engaged the services of Sims Metal for this work.

4.2.2 Councillor Cocking – Agenda Item 9.5, Handover of Infrastructure Assets Package Deal

Councillor Cocking asked if the adapted letter to reflect stronger language than 'satisfaction' has been sent to DIPL.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the letter with stronger wording has been sent after the meeting. There has been some follow up conversations, but delayed due to the COVID-19 situation, will come back to Council in due course. A phone call meeting has been set up with a DIPL officer for tomorrow.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Identification of items for discussion

The following items were withdrawn for discussion:

9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 10.3

5.2 Identification of items to be raised in General Business by Elected Members and Officers

- Councillor Auricht – correspondence from Minister Wakefield and Minister Moss
- Councillor Banks – correspondence from Netball Association

6. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

7. PETITIONS

Nil

8. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Nil

9. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 Technical Services Directorate Update Report No. 57 / 20ts (DTS)

This report provides an update of current Technical Services projects, programs and events.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the April 2020 Technical Services Directorate Update be received and noted.

9.2 Proposed Extension to the Skate Park at Speed Street
Report No. 58/20 ts (PAO)

This report is submitted to Council in regard to the proposed extension to the existing Skate Park at Speed Street.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

1. **That Council approves the Skate Park plans in principal**
2. **That Council tables Report No. 58/20 ts regarding the proposed extension to the Skate Park at the 2020 / 2021 budget discussions**
3. **That Council identify funding opportunities for the Skate Park extension project**

(4667 ts)

Councillor Paterson referred to the estimated costs of the Skate Park upgrade of \$617,300. The report mentioned two stages of the design. Is the cost referring to Stage 1 or Stage 2?

The Director Technical Services advised that the total cost is for both stages of the design. Council officers will take direction from Council on how the cost will be broken down.

Councillor Cocking referred to the design and asked if the contained area is to separate the beginners from the skilled skaters. Councillor Cocking asked if the design has gone back to the skaters after the community consultation.

The Director Technical Services advised that the bowl was put in the design for the novices as well as to add to the flow. Once Council approved the project, it will go back to the skating community.

Councillor Banks thanked the Council officers and Council for seeing this project come to fruition and for supporting the youth of Alice Springs.

Councillor Banks left the meeting at 9:05pm

9.3 Sporting Facility Infrastructure
Report No. 59/20 ts (DTS)

This report is in response to a request from the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee to provide Council and the Committee with an update on the current infrastructure at each of its sporting venues.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That this report is noted by Council and referred to the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee for their information and consideration.

(4668 ts)

UNANIMOUS

Deputy Mayor Paterson would like to add to the recommendation, that Council tables this report at the 2020 / 2021 budget discussions. Discussions ensued whether to add this or amend the proposed recommendation.

Mayor Ryan expressed concerns that this report is still to go to SFAC and SFAC meetings may not be convened for some time, as it is waiting for membership from different sporting bodies. The Committee needs to convene a special meeting to discuss this or put some of these proposals forward for Council budget discussion.

The Director Technical Services advised that SFAC is awaiting some membership nominations due to the change of Charter. At this stage there could be a special SFAC meeting of the existing members, but there has to be a recommendation from Council or the sports bodies could be invited to consult on which projects are considered priorities.

Council acknowledges the NT Government for the \$6.2M invested into the community. The money went a long way to resolving a lot of concerns but there are still a few concerns from sports about some of the projects that could happen. The last time Council undertook consultation on how the \$6.2M funding will be used, the first identified project was the Anzac oval lighting upgrade. The Director suggested that this should still be the first priority to consider.

Councillor Price would like some clarification about the Anzac oval score board. The report stated that the replacement of the score board would be a medium priority but it is listed in the table as high priority. Councillor Price asked when was the last time it was replaced.

The Director Technical Services advised that the replacement of the score board should be changed to high priority. The Director took on notice the date of its last replacement.

ACTION:

Reconvene SFAC at the earliest time convenient to determine what commitments should be considered by Elected Members through the budget process.

ACTION:

Director Technical Services to report on the date the Anzac Oval Scoreboard was last replaced.

Councillor Banks returned to the meeting at 9:20pm

Note: The Elected Members voted unanimously upon Councillor Banks returning to the meeting.

9.4 Illegal Rubbish Dumping
Report No. 60/20 ts (DTS)

This report outlines a proposal for Council to partner with the Northern Territory Government (NTG) to provide a reward to those who assist NT Police / Council Rangers in the conviction of a person who has committed an offense of illegal dumping.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That Council endorses Officers to negotiate with NTG to create a partnership that offers financial incentives for the successful prosecution of illegal dumping.

(4669 ts)

9.5 Sporting Oval Closure and Opening Procedures
Report No. 61/20 ts (DTS)

This report provides Council with an update on the current and proposed oval closing and opening procedures.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

1. **That Officers make the decision in regard to the closure and opening of Council sporting ovals in regard to rainfall events**
2. **That Council endorse the proposed closing and opening procedures**

(4670 ts)

9.6 Cemeteries Advisory Committee – Nominations
Report No. 62/20 ts (DTS)

This report is to provide Council with information on membership nominations received for the Cemeteries Advisory Committee under the new Terms of Reference, and requests endorsement of these nominations as per Section 54 (2) of the Local Government Act.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

1. **That Council endorse the following nominations for the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to apply from the next Committee meeting through until (and including any meeting in) August 2021:**

National Trust NT - David Hewitt

Expires 31 August 2021

Alice Springs Christian Ministers Association (Fellowship) - Pastor Rod Holmes

Expires 31 August 2021

2. **That the section in the Terms of Reference in regard to the number of Elected Members, *three (3) plus the Mayor* on the Committee, applies after the August 2020 Representative**

(4671 ts)

9.7 Sports Facilities Advisory Committee - Nominations
Report No. 63/20 ts (DTS)

This report is to provide Council with information on nominations that Officers have received for the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee under the new Terms of Reference, and requests endorsement these nominations as per Section 54 (2) of the Local Government Act.

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

1. **That Council endorse the following nominations for the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee to apply from the next Committee meeting through until the date of expiry (2 years - unless extended to meet the Summer / Winter Sport terms):**

AFL Northern Territory - Daryll Griffiths

Winter Sport - 2-year term, expires 31/03/2022

Alice Springs Basketball Association - Phillip Preece

Winter Sport - 2-year term, expires 31/03/2022

Alice Springs Touch Association - Tim Pearson

Summer Sport - 2-year term (extended), expires 30/09/2022

Central Australian Rugby Football League - Dennis Sawtell

Summer Sport - 2-year term (extended), expires 30/09/2022

(4672 ts)

2. **That Council postpone all SFAC meetings until nominations from all Sports Facility Fund Members have been received to ensure effective function of the Committee, and so, a quorum can be reached.**

(4673 ts)

10. REPORTS OF ADVISORY & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

10.1 Minutes - Access Advisory Committee - 10 March 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the minutes from the Access Advisory Committee meeting held 10 March 2020 be received and noted.

(4674 ts)

10.2 Minutes - Environment Advisory Committee - 6 April 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the minutes from the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 6 April 2020 be received and noted.

(4675 ts)

10.3 Minutes - Cemeteries Advisory Committee - 7 April 2020

RESOLVED

That it be a recommendation to Council

That the minutes from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee meeting held 7 April 2020 be received and noted.

(4676 ts)

10.3.1 Impact of COVID-19 on Funeral Attendance - Director Technical Services (Agenda Item 7.1)

RESOLVED:

That it be a recommendation from the Cemeteries Advisory Committee to Council

That Council Officers spend up to \$20,000 including GST (42) from the Cemeteries budget for live streaming in the Chapel to allow the public to access funerals remotely due to the impact of COVID-19

(4677 ts)

Councillor Cocking clarified if the digital infrastructure investment in the chapel will be ongoing for remote participation in funerals beyond COVID-19 or is Council looking to install live streaming in the chapel until social distancing restrictions are lifted.

The Director Technical Services advised that initially the thought was just to go through COVID-19 but in the current environment there is no certainty of what will happen post COVID-19. It is the opinion of Council officers that the infrastructure will continue post COVID-19 to enable interstate people to attend funerals via live streaming.

Councillor Cocking proposed to add the word 'remotely' to the recommendation.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Councillor Auricht – Correspondence from Minister Wakefield and Minister Moss

Councillor Auricht put forward for discussion a letter from Minister Wakefield and Minister Moss urging the Alice Springs Town Council to endorse the use of the Anzac Precinct for the National Aboriginal Art Gallery project, including the Anzac High school site and Anzac oval.

Discussion ensued about Council's position and the statement of the Minister in the letter that 32 traditional owners strongly endorsed the project to be built on this site. Council's decision from 9 December 2019 Ordinary meeting states that *"That ASTC negotiate the southern portion of the Council managed Anzac oval site, once the NTG provide ASTC evidence of custodian support of the location."*

Councillor Price encouraged Council to have a separate meeting with the traditional owners and hear their opinions.

Councillor Satour had conversations with various traditional owners. Some have strong support and some are strongly against while some explained that they are not receiving or not fully understanding the information.

Elected Members agreed that Council respond to the Minister stating Council's current position and seek clarity around the design, what portion of the oval NTG would like to take

and evidence of support from traditional owners. The letter should have a clear wording that would not lock Council in and allow Council to progress to the next step.

ACTION:

The Chief Executive Officer to write a letter of response to Minister Wakefield with clear wording stating Council's current position on the project and seeking clarity regarding the design, extent of the existing oval intended for use and requesting evidence of support from traditional owners.

11.2 Councillor Banks - Correspondence from Netball Association

Councillor Banks submitted a letter from Mr Gaynor on behalf of Netball Association for discussion.

The Director Technical Services advised that the letter was sent to Elected Members and only forwarded to senior officers this morning. A meeting with senior officers and the Netball Association has been set up and Elected Members will be informed of the outcome accordingly.

Councillor Banks asked if there was any feedback from SFAC on Council's decision on 26 March 2020 about waiving of SFAC participation levy until 30 June 2020. How was this communicated to different sporting bodies?

The Director Technical Services took the question on notice.

Councillor Cocking advised that Council need to consider how this will impact on sports as a whole and look at some budget/income implications across the board. The Director Technical Services advised that there will be different responses as some sports will be greatly impacted and some will not. All this information will be communicated as soon as a meeting of SFAC is convened.

Deputy Mayor Paterson pointed out that the Sports Participation Levy is only payable if a sports participant plays 3 competition rounds. At this stage, the sports fund contribution will be down approximately of \$17,000 if Netball do not play three rounds this year as the levy will not be payable.

ACTION:

Director Technical Services to ensure communication was made with sporting bodies in regard to waiving SFAC participation levy until 30 June 2020.

12. **NEXT MEETING: Monday, 11 May 2020**

The meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm

Confirmed on _____

CHAIRPERSON _____

Date _____