

District Council of Robe

MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 9 September 2008, commencing at 5.00pm at the District Council of Robe Chambers, Smillie Street, Robe.

PRESENT Mayor Peden, Crs Loxton, Crs. P. Riseley, J Mathews, R Dell'Antonio, N Wright, R. Petrovic, Chief Executive Officer, William Hender and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ronni Barnden

APOLOGY Nil

WELCOME Mayor welcomed the Gallery

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Ordinary Council Meeting 12 August 2008

Cr Loxton moved that **the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12 August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.**
(33/2009)

Seconded Cr Petrovic

Carried

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1999 the following conflict of interest was declared:-

- Mayor Peden declared a conflict of interest on any items to do with marina as he owns land adjoining the marina

PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

MAYOR'S REPORT

LCRDB

On Friday the 1st of August 2008 I attended a meeting of South East Local Government Association (SELGA) which is the association of all Councils in the South East. The main topic of interest was the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board (LCRDB).

Taxpayer money given to businesses and kept secret

One of things that the LCRDB does is to make recommendations to governments as to which privately owned businesses in the South East should receive taxpayer money. Because the LCRDB has funding from all South East Councils and has representatives from some SE councils on its Board there may be an assumption from Government Departments who give out the money, that all LCRDB recommendations are for the good of the South East.

Are the 'taxpayer funded payments to businesses in the South East' in the best interest of the South East?

The public and Councils don't know because the LCRDB doesn't tell the public or councils which private businesses it supports to ask for taxpayer money from governments, and which businesses receive taxpayer money.

To try and settle this DC Robe put forward motions on notice at the meeting. We asked for support from all SE Councils to ask the LCRDB to tell us which businesses receive government money, what they were meant to do to get the money, and, whether each businesses did what they were meant to do.

The only Council that supported our motions was Naracoorte Lucindale and I commend them for supporting us in trying to get openness with taxpayer money.

Unfortunately the other five Councils in the South East voted to effectively keep these payments of taxpayer money secret and being the majority, they won.

Ratepayers in the South East partially pay for the LCRDB so DC Robe believes the people of the south east are entitled to know who is receiving government money. The people cannot tell whether the taxpayer payments are in the best interest of the people of the South East unless they know who is receiving the money.

This leads to the next questions:

Why did the Councils of Mt Gambier, Grant, Wattle Range and Tatiara vote to keep these payments secret?
Do these five Councils and their communities really want these payments to be kept secret?

Do businesses associated with LCRDB people receive any of this taxpayer cash?

There are concerns in the community as to whether any businesses associated with LCRDB Staff or Board Members or their relatives have received taxpayer money. We don't know because once again we don't know which businesses receive the taxpayer money.

To resolve this DC Robe asked for the support of all SE Councils to ask the people at LCRDB to each sign a statutory declaration telling us whether any business associated with them or their relatives have received taxpayers' money.

We also asked for every person associated with the LCRDB to have a publicly available register of interests, which is a list of businesses and properties that they or their close relatives have some involvement with. For the record, all councillors and senior council staff in SA must have a register of interests, so why not the LCRDB? (the LCRDB recommends to the government which businesses should receive taxpayer money)

Again, Naracoorte Lucindale and Robe were the only Councils to support these motions so they failed. The other five Councils of Mt Gambier, Grant, Wattle Range and Tatiara voted against our motions. They effectively voted for not revealing whether businesses associated with LCRDB people have received taxpayer money and blocked us finding out on an ongoing basis.

Why did City of Mt Gambier, DC Grant, Wattle Range, Kingston and Tatiara vote to block the public and Councils from finding out whether any taxpayer money is going to businesses associated with LCRDB people?

Do their Councils and their communities agree with the way their delegates voted on their behalf?

Reducing accountability of LCRDB

Up until August, the LCRDB under its constitution required that its satellite bodies, called Target Groups, keep minutes of meetings, keep audited financial accounts, and, that they follow their plan or brief. The LCRDB sought SELGA approval to have these requirements removed.

Robe was very concerned about the removal of these requirements and opposed their removal. In light of the recent Green Phone saga, Robe believes more and not less accountability is required.

Yet again, Naracoorte Lucindale and Robe were the only Councils voting to maintain accountability. The other Councils effectively voted to take away all formal accountability of Target Groups in the LCRDB.

Is this really what the communities of the SE want?

LCRDB Reps

It was interesting that both representatives of the LCRDB who attended the meeting, Dale Baker (Chairman of the LCRDB) and Grant King (CEO and board member) both argued strongly against our proposals.

Thanks

I want to thank my fellow Councillors for unanimously supporting us in our ongoing effort to get accountability and transparency in every corner of Local government in the South East.

I also wish to thank Mayor Ken Grundy, members of Naracoorte Lucindale Council, and their CEO Andrew Evans, for their support in our ongoing efforts to get transparency in Local Government.

Robe and District Development Association

At last week's annual general meeting, the Robe Toursim and Traders Association changed its name to Robe and District Development Association. The new President is Martin Stanley, proprietor of the Melaleuca Motel, and the new Vice President is Dougal Weir, proprietor of the Lake View Motel, with David Flannery being the Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer. The new President has said he wants to work with Council to assist with promoting businesses in the town and District. We look forward to working with the new team. George Murphy was made an honorary Member of the organisation and we congratulate George.

Projects DC Robe are working on

Effluent + Rubbish + Recycling + Marina

Mayor thanked Crs Riseley and Mathews and their teams for their work on the Limestone Wall around the Christmas tree.

Mayor thanked Cr Riseley for his work in the rain for Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

**BUSINESS
ARISING FROM
MINUTES**

Update on Fish Buying area

Cr Loxton asked CEO for an update on the fish buying area. CEO advised of potential sites for this area and that the Marina Committee is meeting tomorrow night (10/09/08) to possibly make a decision as per the Judith Jones Report.

**REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES**

11.1 Robe Marina Committee Minutes 13th August 2008

Cr Loxton moved **that the minutes of the Robe Marina Committee meeting held 13 August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.** (34/2009)

Seconded Cr Mathews

Carried

11.2 Council Development Assessment Panel 19 August 2008

Cr Mathews moved **that the minutes of the Council Development Assessment Panel meeting held 19 August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.** (35/2009)

Seconded Cr Riseley

Carried

11.3 CCOWS Management Committee Meeting 18 August 2008

Cr Riseley moved **that the minutes of the CCOWS Management Committee meeting held 18 August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.** (36/2009)

Seconded Cr Loxton

Carried

**WORKING PARTY
COMMITTEE**

Nil

**REPORTS OF
ASSOCIATED
BODIES**

13.1 Robe Tourism & Traders General Meeting 6 August 2008

Cr Loxton moved **that the minutes of the Robe Tourism & Traders General meeting held on 6th August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting. (37/2009)**

Seconded Cr Riseley

Carried

13.1 SELGA Meeting 1 August 2008

Cr Dell'Antonio moved **that the minutes of the SELGA meeting held on 1st August 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting. (38/2009)**

Seconded Cr Mathews

Carried

**REPORTS OF
MEMBERS**

Cr Dell'Antonio reported on:-

- 2/9/08 CWMS Meeting
- 2/9/08 Robe Sports & Recreation Quarterly Meeting

Cr Mathews reported on:-

- 17/8/08 Working Bee – Christmas Tree Wall
- 19/8/08 CDAP Meeting
- 24/8/08 Working Bee
- 26/8/08 Meeting on resource recovery centre
- 28/8/08 Limestone Coast Tourism Meeting
- 31/8/08 KESAB cleanup Fox Lake and Outlet
- 1/9/08 Resthaven Forum re Social needs in Robe
- 2/9/08 CWMS Meeting with Tonkin Engineering
- 4/9/08 Institute Committee Meeting

Cr Riseley reported on:-

- 13/8/08 Robe Marina Committee Meeting
- 18/8/08 CCOWS Management Meeting
- 19/8/08 CDAP Meeting
- 20/8/08 Inspection of town with CEO & Cr Mathews
- 24/8/08 Tidy Towns Working Bee
- 26/8/08 Transfer Station Workshop
- 27/8/08 Robe Marina Committee Meeting
- 27/8/08 Bush Fire Prevention Meeting
- 31/8/08 Keep Australia Beautiful Week Clean up
- 3/9/08 CWMS Meeting with Tonkin Engineering
- 3/9/08 Meeting with Environment Minister Jay Wetherill
- 7/9/08 Tidy Towns Working Bee

Cr Riseley reported on:-

- 13/8/08 Robe Marina Committee Meeting
- 16/8-17/8/08 SA Ambulance Conference
- 26/8/08 Transfer Station Workshop
- 27/8/08 Robe Marina Committee Meeting
- 8/9/08 Robe Ratepayers Association Meeting

Cr Petrovic reported on:-

- 28/7/08 Aged Care Meeting
- 18/8/08 LCRDB AGM
- 2/9/08 CWMS Meeting
- 2/9/08 Road Safety Group Meeting
- 8/9/08 Robe Ratepayers Association Meeting

Cr Loxton reported on:-

- 18/8/08 LCRDB AGM
- 2/9/08 Road Safety Group Meeting
- 8/9/08 Robe Ratepayers Association Meeting

Mayor Peden reported on:-

- 08/7/08 Council Meeting
- 14/7/08 SELGA Meeting Millicent
- 24/7/08 Meeting with ETSA
- 28/8/08 Aged Care Meeting
- 29/8/08 NRM Meeting
- 1/8/08 SELGA Meeting
- 27/8/08 Meeting with Bernard Finnigan MLC
- 28/8/08 LCT AGM

- 31/8/08 Keep Australia Beautiful Week Clean up
- 2/8/08 Meeting with Wattle Range Council
- 8/8/08 Robe Ratepayers Association Meeting

OFFICERS' REPORTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 Council Delegations

Cr Wright moved **that Council adopt the following resolutions to amend its existing delegations:-**

“For the purposes of the Council delegations made on 8th July 2008, all delegations to the Chief Executive Officer extend to any person appointed to act in the position of Chief Executive Officer” and;

“The delegation made by the Chief Executive Officer in this instrument extends to any person who is appointed to act in the position of the sub-delegate.”. (39/2009)

Seconded Cr Petrovic

Carried

15.1.2 Limestone Coast Regional Development Board Offer of Assistance

Mayor Peden declared a conflict of interest and left the room at 5.23pm.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Loxton in the chair.

Cr Riseley moved **that Council accept the offer of assistance from the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board and that Mr. King be invited to serve on the Robe Marina Committee in an advisory capacity with no voting rights. (40/2009)**

Seconded Cr Wright

Carried

Mayor entered the room and resumed position in chair at 5.35 pm.

15.1.3 Minimum Rate – Little Dip Conservation Park Shacks

Cr Mathews moved that the owners of shacks in the Little Dip Conservation Park be exempt from the requirement to pay the minimum rate on their property.

Seconded Cr Petrovic Lost

15.1.4 Terms of Reference – Robe Institute Committee

Cr Dell'Antonio moved **that Council adopts the draft Terms of Reference for the Robe Institute Committee.** (41/2009)

Seconded Cr Loxton Carried

15.2.1 Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas – Short Term) Regulations 1997 – Schedule 1

Cr Mathews moved **that Council declare the recommended areas as dry areas (short term) possession and consumption of alcohol prohibited for the period 1.00 pm on December 31, 2008 to 9.00 am on January 2, 2009.** (42/2009)

Seconded Cr Riseley Carried

MANAGER CHILDREN'S SERVICES

15.3.1 Manager Children's Services Report

Cr Mathews moved **that Council notes the report.** (43/2009)

Seconded Cr Loxton Carried

FINANCE REPORT 15.4.1 Report – V McDonald

Cr Wright moved **that Council notes the report.** (44/2009)

Seconded Cr Petrovic Carried

**WORKS
SUPERVISOR**

15.5.1 Works Supervisor Report

Cr Petrovic moved **that Council notes the report.** (45/2009)

Seconded Cr Loxton Carried

**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH**

15.6.1 Environmental Health Officer's Report

Cr Mathews moved **that Council notes the report.** (46/2009)

Seconded Cr Dell'Antonio Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 Hon Gail Gago MLC – Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants for the 2008/09 financial year.

Cr Loxton moved **that the CEO research who the best person would be from Parliament or Grants Commission to invite to meet with Council to discuss formula used to calculate the Financial Assistance Grant.** (47/2009)

Seconded Cr Petrovic Carried

16.2 Kingston District Council – Local Government Representative on Kingston/Robe Health Advisory Council.

16.3 Road Safety Group

Cr Riseley moved **that the correspondence be received.** (48/2009)

Seconded Cr Mathews Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

Baby Change Table

Cr Mathews noted that a motion moved from 2006 regarding purchasing and installing a baby change table in the public toilets on the foreshore had not been acted upon yet, and would like completed before the Robe Village Fair

Robe & Victoria Street Car Park

Cr Loxton moved **that Council inspect the car park at Robe & Victoria Street.** (49/2009).

Seconded Cr Mathews

Carried

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Cr Wright moved **to go into confidence Section 83 (5) of the Local Government Act 1999, that the matter contained in the report titled “Sale of Industrial Land” and “Enviro Tec” is delivered to Council members on the basis that the Council consider the report in confidence under part 3 of the Act, specifically Section (90)(3)(b), on the basis that the reports contain information the disclosure of which**

- (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and**
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.** (50/2009)

Seconded Cr Mathews

Carried

Meeting closed at 6.16pm.

Confirmed 14 October 2008

Date _____ Mayor