

Chairperson Mayor Wilson declared the meeting open at 9:50am

PRESENT

Elected Members:

Mayor	Harold Wilson
Deputy Mayor	Andrew Brown
Councillor	Mark Martin
Councillor	Ralph Narburup
Councillor	Wally Minjin

Staff:

Acting CEO	Michael Freeman
Acting Deputy CEO	Ramesh Pudasaini
Governance Officer	Rebecca Purser

Guests:

Local Government Compliance	Omar Sharif Robin
Local Government Compliance	Abdus Sattar

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil apologies.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

There were no declarations of interest at this Council Meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 December 2016

004/2017 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

Moved: Cr. Martin

Seconded: Cr. Minjin

Resolution: Unanimously

CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Items of General Business were called for.

Additional items:

1. New Report from Sport and Recreation Supervisor concerning Gym in Wadeye
2. Date of the Next Council Meeting and Location
3. Travel to the communities on 27 January 2017

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

CEO REPORT

Two requests for a copy of the compliance report were received and both were declined due to confidentiality.

An application was made by Council to the ABA funding for a Community facility upgrade in Peppimenarti, which was declined. Mayor Wilson asked if we could apply again and ACEO advised that we could however, any application will require a lot of ground work.

Future of Aged Care and Quality Audit:

In September a decision was made that the CEO investigate subcontracting the aged care facility. ACEO has spoken with officials of the government and was advised that subcontracting the aged care facility is not recommended. Either we continue managing the aged care facility or hand it over to another organisation. An independent audit will be conducted in February – this is an official Commonwealth audit. The audit will advise as to whether or not Council has the necessary and required skills to continue to manage the aged care facility. It was suggested that WDRC put on hold sourcing a sub-contractor and await the audit report. The auditors are Sydney based and conduct audits throughout the whole of Australia and they will advise in a written report what we are doing well and areas requiring improvement.

It was further noted that the aged care manager has resigned and we have a temporary person for the next few weeks. The temporary person has been instructed not to 'wallpaper' the aged care and to show the auditors exactly what the issues are and how the aged care is actually running so that we get a true and accurate picture. An informed decision can be made thereafter.

Councillor Narburup asked if the new aged care building would be going ahead and ACEO advised that it would not be at this stage.

Street Lights:

In late November an audit was conducted on the number of street lights that were not working. 79 lights are faulty and in need of replacing.

It was suggested that as this is a safety issue and police also have concerns with the lighting, then, should the Local Authority (LA) submit a potential recommendation to council to allocate an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for street light repairs, that council could indicate prior approval of same. The only concern in doing it this way is getting a quorum for the LA Meeting. Deputy Mayor Brown has committed himself to ensuring that LA members attend the upcoming LA meeting scheduled for 1st February 2017. Deputy Mayor Brown also asked if the street lights were for Wadeye, Nilinh and Manthathpe and reference was made to the table on page 20 of the Agenda. Deputy Mayor also requested that council make inquiries as to whether the lights are 'gecko lights' as there was a fair debate over the original lighting to ensure that we were getting the right product and that they are actually vandal proof.

Recruitment of a new CEO

Councillors were advised that the position has now been advertised.

2) Acting CEO Report

00 Motion:

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1. That Council receive the report from the Acting CEO
2. That Council request the Acting CEO to put on hold actions seeking a potential sub-contractor for the delivery of Age Care pending further investigations.
3. That Council indicates its prior approval to the Wadeye Local Authority of a potential recommendation to allocate an amount not exceeding \$100,000 for street light repairs, and resolves to seek procurement approvals where required.

Moved: Cr. Martin

Seconded: Cr. Narburup

Resolution: Unanimously

FINANCIAL REPORT

As at December 2016 there is \$5,432,764 in the bank. \$3,500,000 has been deposited into short term deposits for higher interest rate.

Cash ratio is at 0.96 and there is no change since last report. Councillors asked if this ratio was good and Acting Deputy CEO (ADCEO) advised that ideally it should be 1. If council manages to control the budget, that ratio will stay the same. The ratio will go up and down with money coming in and going out – at the end of the fiscal year it should be 1. Mayor Wilson requested a forecast and ADCEO stated that at the moment it is good, with the supported budget assistance of \$700,000 from the department. Next year, without government budget assistant support, the ratio should be 1:1. With regards to the budget assistance of \$700,000 which is provided on a reimbursement basis, Abdus Sattar from Local Government Compliance, advised that we can receive *up to* \$700,000 however we may not receive the entire amount.

Deputy Mayor Brown inquired as to how much funding we receive for the grading of the outstations. ADCEO advised the amount is \$100,000 which is for all outstations. Deputy Mayor Brown asked what is the process – do we have to apply for grading or is it a three monthly process. It was advised that some outstations may be done once per year, others may be able to be graded three times.

Local Authority funds – if we do not spend it, we have to give it back.

We have a list of projects that the council had previously approved however, not many projects have been completed to date. Also, noted that, there has been money spent where the council have not given approval to do so. ADCEO is reviewing the report and will present same at the next council meeting.

The issue of the dump was raised and it was noted that we are part of the Big Rivers Management Group. The question was put forth as to why the old dump was being used again and who opened the old dump and under what authority. It was noted that someone had observed that the new dump could not be used due to water and council are endeavouring to find out who provided authority to open the old dump.

3) Financial Report - Dec 2016

00 Motion:

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1. That Council receives and notes the Financial Report for Dec 2016.

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Moved: Cr. Narburup
Seconded: Cr. Brown
Resolution: Unanimously

REVISED BUDGET REPORT

This is the first budget review since it was approved by Council in 2016. Where money is not being utilised in one area we have reallocated to an area where it is needed. The budget has been prepared comparing expenditure from previous periods/Fiscal Year.

Consultation was taken place with CSM's and Parap Office staff and management staff feedback were taken while preparing revised budget. Actual Rates and Charges is now reflected in the revised budget.

Staff housing budget has been revised to cover minor repairs.

The \$700,000 special budget assistance is able to be used for capital expenditure if it is already in approved budget.

Mayor Wilson queried the regional plan and the ACEO advised that a strategic planning day is required. April is the time we should start to consider the Strategic Plan as it is due in June.

4) Revised Budget 16/17

00 **Motion:**

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1. That Council adopts the revised budget for FY16/17.

Moved: Cr. Narburup
Seconded: Cr. Minjin
Resolution: Unanimously

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The ACEO advised of the current vacancies.

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement was discussed and the Councillors advised that this had previously been discussed at length.

5) Human Resources Report - January 2017

00 **Motion:**

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1. That Council receives and notes the Human Resource Advisor's report

Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

VARIATION TO 2016-2017 MES HMS FUNDING AGREEMENT

The funding for the outstations road was raised again. As the road has been graded numerous times over the years this has caused a lot of damage as the gravel has been pushed out over the years and needs to be pushed back in as it is causing the roads to turn into rivers during the wet. The funding review and service components were discussed. It

was advised that Essential services can be used any service including roads. Maintenance for housing however can only be used for housing. There are three crossings in the outstations that require attention.

ACTION ITEM:

ADCEO to provide reports on available funds for each outstation.

6) Variation to 2016-2017 MES HMS Funding Agreement

00 **Motion:**

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- 1. That Council accept the variation to the 2016-2017 MES HMS funding agreement and sign and apply the common seal to same.**

Moved: Cr. Martin

Seconded: Cr. Narburup

Resolution: Unanimously

VARIATION TO FUNDING AGREEMENT - PALUMPA AIRPORT ROAD

Gravel has been the hold up for this particular project. In addition an Environmental Historical Cultural Assessment was required also.

7) Variation to Funding Agreement - Palumpa Airport Road

01 **Motion:**

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- 1. That Council accept and apply the common seal to the Variation to Funding Agreement Palumpa Airport Road**

Moved: Cr. Brown

Seconded: Cr. Minjin

Resolution: Unanimously

WDRC 2016-2017 - FACE AGREEMENT

Basketball Court – It was advised this morning there was an interagency meeting and it was noted at the meeting TDC have applied for a section 19 Lease over the lot and are planning to develop a basketball court. Question was raised as to how many basketball courts are in Wadeye, where they are situated and is there any other court that requires resealing.

It was recommended that we do not sign the Agreement at this stage until a report is provided as to whether we can utilise the grant money for a different court at which time a variation will be sought, or WDRC may ultimately decline to accept the grant if not required.

8) WDRC 2016-2017 - FACE Agreement

No resolution in regards to the FACE Agreement until further investigation is carried out.

POLICIES

It was discussed that the finance and accounting policies be adopted effective immediately. The governance and human resources policies drafted are to be reviewed in further detail.

9) Policies

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Motion:

1. That Council adopt the following Finance policies

Policy Number	Policy Name
3.1.01	Borrowings
3.1.02	Cost Allocation
3.1.03	Credit Cards
3.1.04	Debt Management
3.1.05	Fraud Protection Plan
3.1.06	Fuel Cards
3.1.07	Investments
3.1.08	Leases
3.1.09	Procurement
3.1.10	Rates Management
3.1.11	Rating Principle
3.1.12	Receipt and Banking of Monies
3.1.13	Tendering Process

2. That Council adopt the following Accounting Policies

Policy Number	Policy Name
4.1.01	Accounting Business Systems
4.1.02	Annual Financial Statement
4.1.03	Chart of Accounts
4.1.04	Chief Executive Officer and Responsible Officers Duties
4.1.05	Financial Management Reporting
4.1.06	Internal Controls
4.1.07	Introduction
4.1.08	Organisational Chart
4.1.09	Principle Accounting Policies

Moved: Cr. Minjin
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

COMMUNITY REPORTS

It was discussed that training materials should be gifted to the people who have completed a course.

Community Bus

The community bus is operating again with no fee. The fee for the community bus was discussed at length.

The question was asked if the bus is participating in any activities such as getting the children to school. If not, can we approach the school and request a yearly fee to ensure children are being picked up to and from school.

At a previous meeting, council had resolved to charge the passengers a fee of \$2.00 however, the bus driver is having trouble getting people to pay and is being abused.

The bus and the associated costs are currently funded by a grant from the Chief Minister's Department. It is actually a good idea not to charge the bus driver as it is a safety issue for the driver however, this is a decision for council and the councillors advised that they were not impressed with decisions not going through the due processes.

It was further discussed that the bus should not be driven or used whilst there was fighting/riots in the community and when ceremonies are being held.

It was agreed that as there is sufficient funding to pay for the driver, fuel and associated costs at present, the bus should be a free service. However, the bus is not to be free indefinitely and it is only for a period of time. Users should be made aware that down the track a small fee will be charged. Council will review the fee and make a decision at the relevant time in the future.

10) Bus Service - Wadeye

01 **Motion:**

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1. That the bus usage is free whilst the funding is available

Moved: Cr. Minjin

Seconded: Cr. Martin

Resolution: Unanimously

Sport and Recreation – Wadeye

Feedback provided from the Deputy Mayor in regards to Sport and Recreation was not positive.

Airport Lights – Palumpa

The lights are not working and the airsock has failed due to weather. The Department of Infrastructure has been contacted and we are waiting for them to provide new equipment.

Car Removal – Wadeye

Car removal has improved in the community however the countrymen do not like the car bodies to be removed. Overall, the program is going well.

Centrelink Services – Palumpa

ACEO advised that Centrelink had contacted him advising that no one is answering the phone and the phone is constantly engaged. It was suggested to Centrelink that the phone was engaged as staff are taking calls.

Night Patrol – Palumpa

It has been alleged that a night patrol officer in Palumpa has been driving the WDRC vehicle out of the community to the Moyle River for recreational purposes and he is not adhering to the WDRC policy. ACEO will have discussions with the CSM from Palumpa.

11) Community Services Manager's Report – Wadeye, Palumpa and Peppimenarti

01 **Motion:**

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1. That Council receives and notes the Wadeye Community Services Manager report.

2. That Council receive and notes the Community Services Managers

report from Peppimenarti.

3. That Council receive and notes the report from the Community Services Manager of Palumpa.

Moved: Cr. Narburup
Seconded: Cr. Martin
Resolution: Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE IN & OUT

12) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence Register

01 **Motion:**

4/2

01 **1. That Council accept the correspondence**

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Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Minjin
Resolution: Unanimously

GENERAL BUSINESS

EMU POINT CRÈCHE

ACEO advised that the department had requested a further extension to the end of February 2017. The ACEO contacted the department and queried the extension and asked how long it would actually be before the department could take over as council was not prepared to grant extension after extension. ACEO was advised by the department that the expected take over date could be April 2017. Mayor Wilson stated that he is reluctant to again extend as they were previously advised that no further extensions would be granted after the last variation.

Councillors agreed to extend to 28th February 2017 and that is the final extension that will be approved.

13) Emu Point Crèche

01 **Motion:**

5/2

01 **1. That Council agrees to extend the variation to 28 February 2017 and that this is the final extension that will be approved.**

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Moved: Cr. Minjin
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

GYM – WADEYE

The new Sport and Recreation Coordinator (SRC) would like to open the gym again however, he would like to put an additional access doorway to the gym via the recreational hall. Council does not agree that an additional doorway is necessary.

The SRC also advised in his report that he would like to charge a fee of \$70.00 per month for users and that there would be some concessions for disadvantaged individuals. It was discussed that staff

should not be placed in a position to decide who pays and who is entitled to a discount. Deputy Mayor Brown suggested that the gym should be free until it is up and running properly and also noted that there are volunteers to staff the gym.

It was suggested that the gym be reopened on a free trial (ie: no charge) up to the 30th June 2017 so that council can monitor the usage and assess whether the gym is viable.

14) Gym – Wadeye

01 Motion:

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- 1. That Council approves the cost of \$100 for the cable.**
- 2. That Council does not approve the additional doorway access.**
- 3. That Council approves that the Gym be opened to the community members free of charge until 30th June 2017.**

Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Martin
Resolution: Unanimously

EXTENDED TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Due to bad weather, additional travel and accommodations costs will be incurred in regards to the meeting held on 25 January 2017.

15) Extended Travel and Accommodation

01 Motion:

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- 1. That Council agrees to meet the additional travel and accommodation costs in regards to the extension due to weather conditions.**

Moved: Cr. Martin
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

CEO INTERVIEWS AND NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

CEO Interviews will be held on Tuesday 14 March 2017. As the next Council meeting is 22 March 2017, it is proposed that the Ordinary Council meeting be moved to 15 March 2017.

16) CEO INTERVIEW AND NEXT OCM

01 Motion:

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- 2. That Council agrees to move the Ordinary Council Meeting on 22 March 2017 to 15 March 2017.**

Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Martin
Resolution: Unanimously

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 65(2) of the *Local Government Act*.

The meeting terminated at 12:38 pm.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 9 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Meeting of Council HELD ON Wednesday, 25 January 2017 AND CONFIRMED Wednesday, 15 March 2017.