Urapunga
Community Meeting and Town Priorities Minutes

Held at **Urapunga**

7 March 2018

This meeting was opened at **11.40am**.

1. Present:

Elected Members:

Mayor Judy MacFarlane
Cr Eric Roberts
Cr Owen Turner

Community Members:

Brendan	Urapunga Community Store
Jim Williams	Urapunga Community Store
Margaret Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Marlene Collins	Resident, Urapunga
Annie Daniels	Resident, Urapunga
Hamish Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Besse Moore	Resident, Urapunga
Patrina Roy	Resident, Urapunga
Winnie-Ann Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Lanson Paddy	Resident, Urapunga
Bruce Cameron	Resident, Urapunga
Cleven Woods	Resident, Urapunga
Denis Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Sean John	Resident, Urapunga
Luke Tyson	Resident, Urapunga
Russell Daniels	Resident, Urapunga
Richard Collins	Resident, Urapunga
Clayton Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Samuel Duncan	Resident, Urapunga
Jerry Ashley	Resident, Badawarka Outstation

Staff:

Sharon Hillen	Director of Council and Community Services
Marc Gardner	Director of Commercial Services (Minute Taker)
Chris Taarnby	Area Manager – Roper Region
Janelle Iszlaub	CDP Regional Manager
Jason Thompson	CDP Activity Supervisor, Ngukurr
Michelle Farrell	CDP Employment Consultant

Guests:

The Hon. Selina Uibo	MLA Member for Arnhem (NTG)
Kallum Peckham-McKenzie	Dept Housing and Community Development (NTG)

2. Welcome from Sharon Hillen, Director of Council and Community Services

Sharon Hillen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

3. Meeting Purposes and Discussions

Sharon Hillen explained the purpose of the meeting was to gain feedback directly from the community on what they thought was important for Council to focus on delivering in their community for the 2018/19 financial year.

Sharon Hillen further spoke about the Council's Regional Plan, Council's priorities and how the township of Urapunga fits into the Council's planning framework.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Sharon Hillen lead the discussion on the previous minutes of the Urapunga community meeting held on the 21 October 2017 in Urapunga. She outlined that in the previous minutes that three options regarding Council's service delivery model were presented which included:

1. Maintaining the current arrangement where Urapunga is serviced and supported with staff, machinery and equipment from Ngukurr (minimal presence);
2. Council subcontracts parts of its responsibilities in Urapunga to a local corporation and contractors (devolvement of responsibilities) – similar to the relationship that Council has with the township of Minyerri; or
3. Council works towards having a permanent presence in Urapunga, with a service delivery centre and staff based in Urapunga with its own Local Authority

Sharon Hillen asked the attendees at the meeting, in particular the residents that were present and they all agreed that Council should work towards option three (3).

Jim Williams asked if there was an opportunity for locally based contractors or corporations to still provide Council services. Sharon Hillen responded and spoke about the procurement thresholds of Council and that depending on the contractors or corporations capabilities, it could be something the Council would consider in the future.

Sharon Hillen went on further and elaborated on what option 3 would involve and how a model of having a Council presence in the community would look like including permanent offices and staff accommodation. Sharon Hillen also elaborated that even under this model that there could be opportunities to subcontract some of Council services and contracts.

Sharon Hillen then went on to talk about other Council programs such as Sport and Recreation and explained to the meeting about funding for a sport and recreation officer for Urapunga. Jim Williams asked if it would be a great idea that a sport and recreation program could work with the school and utilise their sports facilities in the community and Sharon Hillen responded that it could be a possibility once we have worked further with the school and that we have agreements with other schools in the Council area that allow this to occur.

The Mayor then spoke about Night Patrol and asked the meeting that at the last Urapunga community meeting in October, residents spoke about not really needing Night Patrol in the community due to size and not really having many community issues for Night Patrol to be concerned with. Jim Williams pipped up again and suggested that the community didn't need a night patrol at the moment and that they may need it if the town grows in the future.

Sharon Hillen said she would speak to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet about the Night Patrol funding and Cr Owen Turner iterated that the community needed two people based in Urapunga, one male and one female.

Sharon Hillen then spoke about the Ngukurr Local Authority and how they had 'in-principle' support for the Urapunga community to have their own Local Authority. The Mayor commenced a general discussion with the meeting about utilisation of Local Authority funding on community

priorities and about Urapunga being a township and funding changes from the 'Intervention' (in 2007).

Jim Williams spoke about the previous minutes indicating that there was about $25,000-$35,000 available and that Craig Singleton had mentioned this at the previous meeting and it was for local innovation grants from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Jim suggested that we should apply for a crèche in the community that was tied in with the school and there instantly would be 4 jobs in the community created. Sharon Hillen then stated that there would be a need to prove to the Australian Government that a crèche is needed based on the population and number of children in the community.

There then was general discussion at the meeting about the need for childcare, that it was the responsibility of the Northern Territory Government and all three levels of government should work together towards children's services in Urapunga.

The meeting then discussed about the utilisation of Local Authority funding possibly from Ngukurr and how the Ngukurr LA had in principle approved $45,000 for Urapunga. The Mayor said that at the last meeting, everyone wanted a toilet block and to utilise the funding for this purpose and new sand for the playground area. The meeting agreed to this use.

5. General Business – Town Priorities

3.1 Mobile Phone Coverage

Jim Williams spoke about the installation of a mobile phone tower and that the store had a solution and just needed to sort out power. Sharon Hillen outlined that it was a Australian Government responsibility however the Council would find out and look at working with the community store. There was general discussion about the payphone also not working and needing to be reported to Telstra.

ACTION: Council to report that public payphone in Urapunga is not working

3.2 Town Priorities

The meeting then considered the 2017/18 Town Priorities outlined in the Council's Regional Plan with notes regarding each.

Animal Welfare: Has been completed and Council now including Urapunga with regular vet visits for animal management.

Council Services: Suggested it was left as a town priority, Council considering service delivery model for township and it is in progress.

Cemetery Fence and headstones: Cemetery fencing has commenced. Headstones can be done as part of a CDP project and left as a town priority until completed.

Solar Street Lights: The meeting agreed to leave in as a town priority to install street lights at various locations in the community.

Road Sealing: Suggestion came that the road to the shop and some dirt roads. Leave in as a town priority and Council to include as part of its roads audit and road works programme. This may also require funding to complete.

Airstip: There was general discussion about the airstrip and regular maintenance is a town priority. Suggestion that a helicopter pad might be more suitable, however residents felt that an

airstrip for aeroplanes was needed more. There was also a need to install landing lights that Council could advocate to Government.

Community Toilets: Leave as a town priority to upgrade and repair

Landscaping/community parks: Leave as a town priority

Homestead: Clean and upgrade the old Homestead site. This is not a Council responsibility but has an advocacy role to assist the community in funding applications and include in a community plan for utilisation.

Sport and recreation: Leave in, Council to continue to provide Sport and Recreation services and include future provisions as part of revised Sport and Recreation Plans.

Upgrade CDP property for Council occupation was also raised as a town priority.

Traffic Management: it was identified that the entire town needed new road signs, town entry sign, footpaths and speed bumps throughout the community.

Provision of Aged Care Services: Was required to remain as a town priority but also investigate options to incorporate with crèche/childcare services similar to other towns and to be run by the School.

Marlene Collins complained about the Council equipment at Urapunga and that is was always broken and the community only had old machinery given to it from Ngukurr. Janelle Iszlaub asked what had happened to the new mowers and whipper snippers given to the CDP program in December and it was highlighted that they were still sitting in the shed. Then a question was raised about no women's activities in Urapunga for CDP participants and Janelle Iszlaub said she would discuss separately with the women after the meeting.

There was also mention of the proposal of the Northern Land Council to fund a basketball court. This wasn't a Council project and it appears to be a half court that will be installed at the school.

A question was also asked to Kallum Peckham McKenzie about contractors coming into the community and working on housing upgrades but not employing local people or providing an opportunity for them to participate and not tied in with CDP. Kallum is to follow up with the Department responsible after the meeting.

6. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 13.11pm