

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE
ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2020 at 12:00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBER

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan
Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson
Councillor Jimmy Cocking (*Chair*)
Councillor Glen Auricht – *attended in the Council Chamber*
Councillor Eli Melky

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE (*attended in the Council Chamber*):

Simon Duke, Acting Director Community Development
Scott Allen, Director Technical Services
Petina Franklin, Acting Manager Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre
Telly Ociones, E/A to Director Community Development (*minutes*)

APOLOGIES:

Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer

13th Alice Springs Town Council ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE	9 Sept 2019	12 Nov 2019	24 Mar 2020
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht	A	✓	✓
Councillor Eli Melky	✓	✓	✓

✓	Attended
Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member
A	Apology received
--	No attendance and no apology recorded

The meeting opened at 12:00pm.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre Committee meeting held 12 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Mayor Damien Ryan
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

All matters actioned.

5. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Winter Opening Hours Update

In line with current public health advice, the Alice Springs Town Council is to cease operation of the ASALC facility as at 12noon on Monday, 23 March 2020, until further notice. The already approved winter opening hours between May and August will be discussed when the situation returns to normal.

6.2 Capital Project Update

The Acting Director Community Development provided a progress update on ASALC capital projects.

Water Play Splash Pad

The splash pad has been completed and operational during the summer school holidays. However, there was an issue with the concrete cracking. The contractor, from Western Australia, has committed to repair it. Unfortunately, with the current COVID-19 situation and quarantine/self-isolation measures, the timing of the repair has to be reviewed and re-negotiated. Council has withheld \$100K from the contract until the splash pad is repaired.

Fencing for the water play splash pad was scheduled for installation over summer, but there were delays with the contractor and the materials. The contractor has been on site for the last two weeks measuring up the area and preparing to install.

ASALC Changeroom and Kiosk Upgrades

Approval to go to Tender for the Changeroom and Kiosk upgrades was provided at the February Ordinary meeting. Tender documentation is still waiting to be finalised, but should be ready to go out in April 2020. The project has been split into two stages, with the ASALC changeroom to be in Stage 1 and the kiosk Stage 2.

The Acting Director Community Development mentioned that the kiosk upgrade may be able to be prioritised over the changeroom upgrade, considering the current COVID-19 situation and ASALC closure.

6.3 Scheduled Maintenance Update

The plans that have been put in place for maintenance will be unchanged, with the COVID-19 outbreak and facility closure.

Maintenance to drain the 50-metre pool is scheduled for 1 May. Every two years the pool is emptied and thoroughly cleaned including minor tile maintenance if required. This is normally a 4 to 5-week process, depending on the work required once the pool is emptied. Some minor works have been identified.

The leisure pool maintenance (mainly focused on the river island) is also scheduled for May 2020.

6.4 Business Plan Progress Update

The Acting Director Community Development provided the following update on the ASALC Business Plan Improvement Goals:

Improvement Goal 5: Build leadership capacity of key ASALC staff

In early March, Simon Thiessen from 'The Real Learning Experience' delivered a two-day workshop and leadership training with ASALC staff to enhance workplace relationships, communication and culture.

2020/21 Budget

Council officers asked Elected Members to advise their priorities for programs and projects. With the kiosk and changeroom update taking place, the Acting Director does not anticipate any major capital budget requests out of the Business Plan for the next financial year.

The following items need further investigation/re-assessment in the next financial year:

Improvement Goal 8: Adventure Playground

Improvement Goal 11: Mini Golf Course

Improvement Goal 13: Outdoor Gym Equipment

Improvement Goal 4: Improve performance (efficiency & enrolments) of ASALC Swim School

A plan to increase school engagement and uptake has been created, however, due to the staffing situation last year this was delayed. This will be prioritized to be ready in time for the re-opening of the facility. It is to be noted that there has been a number of schools that pulled out of their term 2 scheduled lessons prior to ASALC closing.

Improvement Goal 6: Integrated software for management of ASALC operations

Council is looking more broadly across the organisation for a system that would work sufficiently at ASALC and integrate with Council's existing core systems as part of broader IT system review for Council.

Improvement Goal 7: Toddler pool to zero depth splash pad conversion

A Purchase Order is in place for the installation of the splash pad fence. The contractor has been on site and will complete installation by the end of April 2020.

6.5 Royal Life Saving Society of Australia 2019 Facility Safety Audit

The Acting Director Community Development noted that on the Audit Actions Register presented to the Committee, the greyed-out action items indicate that they have been followed up and completed, while the items in black print indicate that they are in progress.

The Acting Director Community Development would like to thank Petina Franklin in her role as Acting Manager ASALC, for driving and progressing each of these audit action items since the audit was completed in August/September 2019.

6.6 ASALC Finances

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent closure of the facility on ASALC's revenue an urgent budget review was undertaken. In addition to the revenue impact, there are operational costs such as employee costs, plant rooms and pools that still require maintenance. The Acting Director Community Development indicated that it is not viable to shut down the plant rooms and the filtration systems. Some things have been done to reduce operational costs including:

- turning off heaters to reduce gas consumption
- 'winterising' the pools allowing them to use one pump at a time
- keeping chlorine dosage to a minimum

A revised ASALC budget for 2020/21 financial year has been prepared for Elected Members' consideration, with the impact of COVID-19 factored in and with the assumption that the ASALC facility will be closed July, August and September.

6.7 ASALC Staff

Mayor Ryan asked if there will be a Manager visiting the pools everyday with the ASALC closure. The Acting Director Community Development advised that there will be staff at ASALC from Monday to Friday, so that no penalty rates are incurred. The pools require an operations person to attend the pool for 1 ½ to 3 hours each morning to do plant rooms check as well as test the pool water and make any adjustments required. For casual staff there will be no regular work for them starting Monday next week. The intention is to introduce a training schedule for them in order to maintain their skills in preparation for when ASALC reopens.

Councillor Melky enquired if Council is able to provide jobs elsewhere for those staff who will be out of work due to the COVID-19 closure. The Director Technical Services advised that at the ASALC operations meeting today, it was discussed about how Council can better utilise the permanent staff, in the first instance, and engage casual staff by keeping their skills set up so that they are qualified and competent when the facility reopens. There are a lot of areas that the Senior Executives and Managers are looking at for potential opportunities for all staff to work moving forward.

Councillor Melky expressed his support to ensure that casuals and full-time staff are maintained regardless.

6.8 ASALC Security and Kiosk Items

Mayor Ryan asked about the security at ASALC and the rotation of food stock. The Director Technical Services advised that the food stock will be moved to the Depot. With regard to security, there will be some permanent staff checking the facility every morning.

The Acting Director Community Development added that since the roller shutters and CCTV were installed at ASALC there has been no break-ins for kiosk items. The only security incidents were related to rock throwing and car break-ins in the carpark.

Mayor Ryan left the meeting at 12:47pm

6.9 Acting Director Community Development

Councillor Cocking thanked the Acting Director Community Development for the hard work and commitment he has shown for the facility as ASALC Manager and for stepping up to the role of Acting Director Corporate and Community Services and with the Council restructure as Acting Director Community Development. On behalf of the ASALC Committee and Council we wish you the very best for the future.

Petina Franklin also expressed her thanks to the Acting Director on behalf of the staff at ASALC.

The Acting Director Community Development acknowledged the Committee and the Elected Members for its support in moving the ASALC facility forward.

6. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 23 June 2020 at 12:00, TBA

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 12:50pm