

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
**ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC & LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE**  
 ON MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021 at 11:00am  
 ARUNTA ROOM

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**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan  
 Councillor Jamie de Brenni (*Chair*)  
 Councillor Eli Melky

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer  
 Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services  
 Takudzwa Charlie, Acting Director Technical Services  
 Petina Franklin, Manager Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre  
 Mel Bennett, Manager Finance  
 Alana Wakefield, Finance Officer  
 Telly Ociones, E/A to Director Community Development (*minutes*)

APOLOGIES:

Deputy Mayor Jacinta Price  
 Councillor Matt Paterson

<b>13th Alice Springs Town Council ALICE SPRINGS AQUATIC &amp; LEISURE CENTRE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>9 Sept 2019</b>	<b>12 Nov 2019</b>	<b>24 Mar 2020</b>	<b>30 June 2020</b>	<b>8 Sept 2020</b>	<b>23 Nov 2020</b>	<b>8 March 2021</b>
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Mayor Jacinta Price						✓	A
Councillor Jamie de Brenni						✓	✓
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councillor Eli Melky	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Matt Paterson	✓	✓	✓	A	--	✓	A
Councillor Glen Auricht	A	✓	✓	✓	✓		

✓	Attended
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member
A	Apology received
--	No attendance and no apology recorded
	Not a member

The meeting opened at 11:00am.

**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 23 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Councillor Eli Melky  
Seconded: Mayor Damien Ryan

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES****4.1 ASALC Finances – June, July and August 2020 Financial Report**

Mayor Ryan asked if the gas billing from the service provider has been followed up.

Manager Finance advised that the bills up until December 2020 have been received. The bills are due quarterly. An invoice is expected to arrive at the end of this month.

**4.2 ASALC Running Cost**

Mayor Ryan asked if Council officers have any update on potential opportunities to offset the cost of providing service at ASALC.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that this is a longer-term goal and will be discussed as standing item at future meetings.

**ACTION:**

Council officers will look at potential opportunities to offset the cost of providing service at ASALC and report back to Council.

**4.3 Family Vouchers Update**

Report printed from LINKS database recorded **507** memberships including 3month, 12month, direct debits, adults, children and family from July 1 2020 to February 28 2021 valued at **\$85,353.55**

Casual visits between 1 July 2020 - 28 February 2021: **65,984**; generated **\$216,804.03**.

**4.4 Alice Springs Swimming Club Update**

In response to the Alice Springs Swimming Club fee reduction request from Mr Gabriel Waterford, Council provided the following proposal as emailed to him on 22 January 2021:

1. That the Alice Springs Swimming Club (ASSC) are advised that they have the opportunity to apply for SFAC Membership, recognising that in doing so won't result in ASALC Fees being waived and the participants would incur the SFAC participation levy.

2. Council offers a 50% discount on annual memberships for children of ASSC. As an example, for 2020 year, where the current annual 'paid in advance' membership fee is \$294.80, this would represent an annual discounted 'paid in advance' fee of \$147.40. This equates to a reasonable \$36.85 per term. This discount is accessed by swimming club members applying for it via the ASALC membership team on production of evidence of their confirmation of enrolment in ASSC (an email or club receipt?).

On 8 February 2021, Mr Waterford accepted the half price annual membership fee offer for junior swimmers of the ASSC.

#### **4.5 Business Plan Progress Update**

As per discussion with Technical Services Projects officer about design and concept of playground and outdoor gym equipment, the concept designs are attached in Appendix A for the Committee's consideration.

All costings are a rough estimate of probable costs for supply / install only ex GST (no allowance for travel, accommodation, etc.).

Discussion ensued about the adventure playground product designs presented, and the Committee requested that a concept drawing with pricing for best use of the area be presented to the Committee. The scope of works should include the wear and tear of the product, ongoing maintenance, public liability insurance on the product, budget allocation and shelter element.

Mayor Ryan noted that the Improvement Goals Implementation GANTT chart for the adventure playground is already behind its proposed timeline. One of the tasks, to secure funding in budget process for 2020/21, should have been done in the second quarter of 2021.

#### **ACTION:**

Technical Services Project Officer to provide concept drawings and costings for the adventure playground, in consultation with Manager ASALC.

Mayor Ryan mentioned about the proposal at the Parks Advisory Committee meeting last month by the *'Bar Brothers and Sisters of Alice Springs'* to install exercise bars and equipment in a local park. Mayor Ryan asked if this could be tied in together with the adventure playground in the planning structure, so Council is not working in silos on different projects?

The CEO advised that there was a meeting held with Director Community Development Kim Sutton, Manager Infrastructure Steve Baloban and the Bar Brothers three months ago. The CEO will provide Mayor Ryan with an update regarding this meeting.

### **5. DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

### **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **6.1 ASALC Financial Report – November 2020, December 2020, January 2021**

Manager Finance presented the ASALC financial reports for three months from November 2020 to January 2021. The January 2021 income is higher than expected, trailing at 68% where they should be at 60%.

The expenditure on the other hand is at 51%, where they should be at 60%. Electricity and water are a little bit higher than where they should be at this point in time.

Overall, of the \$2.3M investment that Council has put into ASALC, it is currently just over \$1M deficit, which is 43% of the allocated budget for the year, as at 31 January 2021.

Manager ASALC advised that the increase in electricity expenses is due to the refurbishment, more machinery working, more events and more people coming to use the facility.

Discussion ensued about tracking the finances and it was suggested that another column for previous year be added to the report to provide some measure and comparison on how ASALC finances are tracking.

**ACTION:**

Manager Finance to add an extra column to the ASALC finance report to include previous year's figures for comparison tracking.

Mayor Ryan asked if it is time to invest in a wall of batteries to get the most out of Council's solar energy and suggested employing a consultant to provide advice. The CEO advised that he is already in discussion with Acting Director Technical Services and the asset management plan team to work out how to best utilise the extra solar energy Council is producing. Councillor de Brenni mentioned about taking into consideration a solar battery recycling program.

## **6.2 Capital Projects Update**

Already discussed in Item 4.5

## **6.3 Business Plan Progress Update**

Councillor Melky put forward the need to concentrate on increasing revenue by spending more on marketing plan and consider advertising in different websites, e.g. government body, real estate, construction, social clubs (police, hospital), which attracts a lot of local traffic. Some Council functions/events can be held at the pool to promote the facility.

Councillor Melky advised that Parkruns are popular and attract the main population rather than elite athletes. He suggested creating the first Parkswim at the pool.

**ACTION:**

Manager ASALC to investigate a marketing plan to increase revenue.

## **6.4 Royal Life Saving Society of Australia - Facility Safety Audit Actions**

The audit was conducted on Thursday 4 March 2021. RLSSA were very happy with the audit results. There were minor things that need to be updated, such as signage. The report from RLSSA will be available on 23 March 2021.

## **6.5 Events Update**

Events held over the Christmas school holiday period included six Wet Wednesdays, six Splash Sundays and a New Year's Eve party. ASALC also provided an Australia Day event on 26 January 2021.

These events included free entry and BBQ, inflatables, water slides and Arrow Tag – a new interactive game to encourage cross cultural participation and healthy activity on the oval space.

Sundaze at the Pool held on February 21, between 12pm to 4pm had **236** attendees.

#### **Total Visits for ASALC Free Events - December 2020 to 30 January 2021**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>
Wet Wednesdays	2,188
Sunday Splash Parties	1,522
New Year's Eve Party	426
Australia Day	829

#### **Future Events**

##### Youth / Easter School Holidays

Celebrating Youth Week – 9 April, 3pm to 7pm

Wet Wednesday – 14 April, 11am to 6pm

12-Hour Swim – 12 April, 7am to 7pm

Free Friday - 16 April, 11am to 6pm

Learn to Swim – 19 April to 26 June

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Additional Fencing** ***(Item transferred from Item 12.1)***

Temporary fencing around the 25m pool was installed immediately to provide safety for users.

Permanent fencing around the 25metre pool has been completed on 6 March 2021.

The budget of \$14,000 came out of the ASALC's capital budget.

## **8. NEXT MEETING: 14 June 2021**

The meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am