

Nhulunbuy Town Board
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Nhulunbuy Corporation Board Room, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory
Tuesday 29 April 2025 at 8:36am

1. Present

Shane Whitten (SW)	Chairperson (Nhulunbuy Corporation)
Vicki Blackler (VB)	RTA Representative
Lucaster Clothier-Fairs (LCF)	NTG Representative
Wesley Van Zanden (WVZ)	Member
Catherine Fielke (CF)(online)	Member
Lauren Heald (LH)	Minute Taker

2. Apologies

Mandaka Marika (MM)	RAC Representative
Isabelle Pool (IP)	Member

3. Conflict of Interest

None Noted.

4. Confirmation of Minutes – 25 March 2025

Town Board members approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Nhulunbuy Town Board meeting Tuesday 25 March 2025 with no changes noted.

Moved: VB
Seconded: WVZ
Carried 5/0

5. Business Arising from Minutes

It was noted that the following from the **Action List** were updated (see *Action List March 2025*).

113/23 – Town Centre Revitalisation Committee – SW updated board members that the Activate Territory initiative is no longer funded, and that NC will continue to investigate avenues to implement and fund longer term projects. - *Review May 2025*.

117/24 - NC to invite OIC from Nhulunbuy Police to attend next month's Town Board Meeting - SW noted that representatives from NT Police have been and will continue to attend bi-monthly Town Board meetings to provide updates. – *Review May 2025*.

118/25 – SW to write to the GPHG regarding the littering and increased illegal gambling activities in the Town Centre Areas. - SW to circulate second draft for review out of session based on feedback received when first draft was tabled in today's meeting. - *Review May 2025*.

119/25 – SW to draft a letter of thanks to Megan Niven and associated social media post acknowledging her service to the Nhulunbuy Town Board. – SW updated that a morning tea was held in on 4 April 2025 to recognise Megan Niven's service where a certificate of appreciation was presented along with letter of thanks, with photos and commentary posted to social media. - *Completed April 2025*.

Secretary: *Stacie Inuing*
Date: 28 May 2025

Chairperson: *Shane Whitten*
Date: 28 May 2025

6. Correspondence - In

Email: Nhulunbuy Youth Council - Terms of Reference.

VB noted that the document highlights the original intent of the Nhulunbuy Youth Council and suggested that issues can be diverted to their meetings for review. An example being the issue raised of electric scooters and the dangers and safety concerns they present in the Township.

SW noted that there are currently no active members of the Nhulunbuy Youth Council due to the difficulty in getting elected members. This feeds into the large discussion held of late in how to maximise active participation and output of elected members on the Town Board and Nhulunbuy Youth Council, perhaps by revisiting remuneration of these positions.

VB suggested other avenues of participation in the Nhulunbuy Youth Council through the Nhulunbuy High School who may have a dedication school council.

Letter of Acceptance - Nhulunbuy Corporation CDU Scholarship - Kelly Cooper

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled.

Letter of Acceptance - Nhulunbuy Corporation CDU Scholarship – Jennifer Lee-Kelsall

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled.

7. Correspondence – Out

Letter – Gove Peninsula Harmony Group – Letter to Community

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled. SW updated the community correspondence has been published to the community. LCF noted the quiet response from the community, comparatively to other correspondence published.

Letter of Support - Community Assistance Grant - Runners North.

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled.

Letter of Appointment - New Elected Member - Isabelle Pool.

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled.

8. Monthly Ops Report March 2025

The Nhulunbuy Town Board tabled and noted the Operations Report with the following item noted by exception.

Dog Attack – VB noted that whilst it wouldn't be present in the Ops report, there was a dog attack on 28 April 2025 and commentary on social media could NC advise the status of the attack. SW confirmed that yes there was an attack, and an investigation is underway and in the very early stages. Whilst NC cannot yet comment on the findings, SW confirmed that first objective, ensuring community safety, had been achieved with all alleged dogs involved no longer on Town Lease.

Secretary: *Stacie Irving*
Date: 28 May 2025

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9. General Business

Draft Letter to Gove Peninsula Harmony Group on behalf of Nhulunbuy Town Board Members

Town Board members noted the correspondence as tabled. SW elaborated that whilst NC are cognisant that they are the town cleaners, NC are struggling with the significant level of rubbish and human biohazard waste left behind during the gambling and anti-social activity transpiring in the Town Centre. VB noted the recent social media comms published by the Op Shop Committee in the same vein. The waste is above and beyond littering.

LCF recounted a meeting with the Miwatj Board regarding the broader social issues arising from the gambling activities, beyond littering, like food scarcity in homes. LCF noted that Gove Peninsula Harmony Group is a good place to raise the issue of gambling in the Town Centre as there are many stakeholders within that Group and all would have a perspective on the social impacts stemming from the gambling activities, enabling a multi-pronged and collaborative approach to answering the question of, "*how do we reduce harm?*" A core value of the group. Town Board members discussed and noted that education as opposed to punitive action is required.

SW to revise the letter to focus on the issue of gambling as opposed to littering, as addressing this activity will have a positive ripple effect on the other prevailing issues resulting from the gambling activities. SW to circulate the re-drafted letter out of session for review.

10. Any Other Business (Round Table)

SW announced that NC had been successful in their Community Benefit Grant – Major Funding Round for funding toward replacement playground for Lions Park. SW noted the value of \$250k had been awarded, with a commitment of \$350k in co-contributed funding from NC budget. SW advised that the tender scope would include a provision that the Playground build cater to a range of needs (neurodivergent friendly equipment, shade structures, etc). Town Board member Catherine Fielke provided a letter of support to the grant application and SW will reach out to Catherine Fielke out of session for her perspective on the Playground build.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.05am.

Next meeting: 8:30am Tuesday 27 May 2025.

Secretary: *Stacie Irving*
Date: 28 May 2025

Chairperson: *Shane Whitten*
Date: 28 May 2025