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MINUTES

Shire of Wandering Annual Meeting of Electors 15 February 2024

OUR VISION

Wandering is a community of responsible, resilient and adaptable residents thriving in our scenic, economically diverse environment.

These Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held 15 February 2024 are confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings without amendment. Confirmed on _____ by the Presiding Member, Cr I Turton.

.....
Cr Turton Presiding Member

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The purpose of this council meeting is to discuss and, where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda. Whilst Council has the power to resolve such items and may in fact, appear to have done so at the meeting, no person should rely on or act on basis of such decision or on any advice or information provided by a member or officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the meeting.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Wandering during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wandering. The Shire of Wandering warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wandering must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wandering in respect of the application.

Persons should be aware that the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 (section 5.25 (e)) establish procedures for revocation or rescission of a Council decision.

The Shire of Wandering expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a member or officer, or the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Council meeting.

Alan Hart
Chief Executive Officer

SHIRE OF WANDERING

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held in the Council Chambers on Thursday 15 February 2024.

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1. Declaration of Opening / Announcements of Visitors

The President declared the meeting open at 6.10pm.

2. Attendance / Apologies / Approved Leave of Absence

Councillors

Cr Ian Turton (Shire President)
Cr Sheryl Little (Deputy Shire President)
Cr Lou Cowan
Cr Gillian Hansen
Cr Dennis Jennings
Cr Alan Price
Cr Max Watts

Staff

Alan Hart Chief Executive Officer
Karl Mickle Operations Manager

Apologies

Mr B Cornish Mr D Cornish Mrs S Cornish
Mrs V Watts Mrs E Turton

Members of the Public

Mr B Whitely Mrs L Muller Mr B Little
Mrs J Cornish Mr K Price Mr R Curtis
Mr K Price Mr S Bullock Ms A Yzerman

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings Held

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting – 20 April 2023

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meeting to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

140224 Moved: Brendan Whitely Seconded: Jacquie Cornish

Decision:

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 20 April 2023 be confirmed as true and correct.

Carried

4. 2022/2023 Annual Report

4.1 President's Report

As presented in Annual Report.

4.2 CEOs Report

As presented in Annual Report.

4.3 Adoption of Annual Report and Auditor's Report

150224 Moved: Cr Max Watts

Seconded: Cr Gillian Hansen

Decision:

That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, including the Auditor's Report be adopted.

Carried

4. General Business

The Shire President gave a few updates as follows:

Wandering's 150 Year Celebrations

There will be a community meeting in March. A working group has been formed, they will be a conduit between Council and the community.

Level of Compliance for Levels 3 and 4 Local Governments

Has been pushing to reduce the level of compliance and looking at challenges that relate to us. Focus on level 4 regional Councils challenges are similar to ours. This will be followed up at the Central Country Zone meeting tomorrow.

Wheatbelt South Freight Network

Funding and works are delayed and has resulted in costs to Council and will be following this up with our federal local member.

We sometimes have a battle with Main Roads decisions. The President and Deputy met with the Road Safety Council and hopeful that we have an avenue for help.

5. Public Question Time

5.1 Brendan Whitely

Summary of Question:

Will Main Roads help fix the York Williams / Pingelly cross roads?

Summary of Response:

The CEO advised that the Shire President and Deputy have met with the Road Safety Council. The Shire President added that he would like a speed limit put on the current signs on the gravel road to help drivers as most are not aware of how to drive on gravel roads correctly. The Shire managed to get some black spot funding for the north side of the cross roads and we are hoping to get rumble strips there. He has followed up with the Road Safety Commission, they have not heard anything back yet. In two to three weeks that northern section will be sealed. We need help to seal that section of roads and to speed it up to make the road safe.

Summary of Question:

When will the Wheatbelt South Freight Network start and what is the timeline for completion?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President advised the timeframe given to us is for it to be completed by 2037, which is not acceptable. The Shire are contributing 7% and not 30% which is a significant saving.

Summary of Question:

What is the plan for the Codjatotine Bridge? Can Main Roads fix the bridge problem and road surface? When will that be looked at?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President replied that we should be able to fix that in the shorter term.

The Operations Manager added that the surface only needs reforming.

The CEO added that this is the Shire's responsibility and will be considered in the 24/25 year budget.

The Shire President added that two other bridges need urgent attention and the costs are escalating.

He will continue to lobby road safety council members to push our point.

5.2 Kelvin Price

Summary of Question:

The six mile hill road is failing. The Shire should look at stopping the current program and starting at the worst section.

Summary of Response:

The Shire President replied that he would take that on board for consideration.

Summary of Question:

Why has there been no expenditure on R2R this year?

Summary of Response:

The CEO advised that the funding amount is for over a four year period, and can be spent over the that time, it is not an annual allocation. The Federal Government has doubled their allocation from what we have received in the past so the Shire can now do more.

5.3 Rob Curtis

Summary of Question:

Has it been decided where the roadside bins will go in the Wandering Shire? Has it been settled?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President replied that the trial near the highway has finished he has heard there is reasonable tidiness at the moment. The final decision is to leave them how they are running at the moment and we keep an eye on the situation.

5.4 Max Watts

Summary of Question:

What is happening with the CBH bins in Wandering? Why hasn't the ranger talked to them?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President advised he has had a discussion with CBH over the future of the bins and has been told that CBH will contact us if they are going to be closed. The Shire ranger has issued notices to them.

5.5 Lee Muller

Summary of Question:

Can the Shire notice board be replaced with something more functional?

I have had feedback that it doesn't get seen, can it be relocated?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President replied that it can and will be looked at by Council. Maybe to the front of the CRC or the fuel station.

5.6 Brendan Whitely

Summary of Question:

Would Council entertain the idea of the machinery shed being converted to a retail outlet / offices?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President responded that this could be looked at. There are undoubtedly issues with a shop, we need someone to come to the Shire with a proposal.

The CEO added that we are currently looking at installing an electric charging station for cars and that the Community Centre would be the best option.

5.7 Stephen Bullock

Summary of Question:

Has concerns about the price of fuel at the fuel station – this was put in to support local people, if the mark up is lower then more locals will use it.

Summary of Response:

The Shire President advised that the problems are getting the fuel delivery and the pricing, as we blend the old and new price together once the fuel is refilled. We have looked at leasing the site for somebody else to run. We can also look at lowering the mark up to increase usage eg 10c per litre not 25c.

5.8 Gillian Hansen

Summary of Question:

Does the Shire pay cost price or full cost when filling vehicles at our fuel station?

Summary of Response:

The CEO advised we pay wholesale cost price.

5.9 Rob Curtis

Summary of Question:

How much fuel does the Shire use at the buy in price as to what you would sell retail? I'd like to see how much you make.

Summary of Response

The Shire President replied - We've done the sums there is not an easy answer. As for the price - we can look at leasing the site and see what effect it has on the pricing. The usage will increase as the road improves and it will be an opportunity to lower the price through volume.

5.10 Jacquie Cornish

Summary of Question:

Can we put signage on the main road when Albany Highway is closed?

Summary of Response:

The Shire President advised that this is predominantly a Main Roads issue in the first instance and we have limited staff available to be able to do this every time the highway was closed.

Summary of Question:

Can the loose gravel around the gazebo be stabilised prior to the ANZAC day breakfast?

Summary of Response:

The Operations Manager responded that yes this will be done.

5.11 Kelvin Price

Summary of Question:

What is happening with the Community Centre timeframe? How is the budget going?

Summary of Response:

The CEO advised that we are working very closely with the committee on the kitchen upgrade. The Deputy President added that the money being spent is grant money not Shire money. The Shire President advised that the money has to be spent by the 30th June 2024. If there is money left it will put it into the power at the Centre.

Then we will seek grant money for other work we want to do – associated change rooms and toilet building. We should be able to get emergency funding to use the centre as an evacuation centre in the event of an emergency.

The CEO advised he is currently applying for funding to upgrade toilets etc so it can accommodate people in the event of an emergency.

5.12 Jacquie Cornish

Summary of Question:

When you refer to the ablution blocks do you mean inside or outside?

Summary of Response:

The Chairman of the Wandering Community Centre Upgrade Committee replied inside and outside.

5.13 Steven Bullock

Summary of Question:

When will the Shire complete the Kitchen upgrade at the Wandering Community Centre?

Summary of Response:

I don't know how long it will take to complete, hopefully by the end of the year.

6. Closure of Meeting

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.36pm.