



SHIRE OF WANDERING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES

Wandering Community Centre
Down Street, Wandering

4 November 2015
Commencing at 7.30pm

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1.0 Declaration of Opening

The Shire President opened the meeting at 7.32pm

2.0 Announcement of Visitors

Nil

3.0 Attendance

3.1 Present

Cr B Whitely **President**
Cr B Dowsett **Deputy President**
Cr W Gowland
Cr C Ferguson
Cr J Price
Cr J McNeil
Cr K Stripe

Mr B Cornish
Mrs J Cornish
Mr D Cornish
Mr S Cornish
Mrs L Muller
Mr R Curtis
Mr K Boddy
Mrs L Boddy

Mrs L Barge
Mr R Treasure
Mr I Turton
Ms A Yzerman
Mr J Whitely
Mrs M Whitely
Mr S Bullock
Mr T Martin
Mr J Price
Mr S Dexter
Mr G Kerr

A O'Halloran *Chief Executive Officer*
D Ojha *Manger Admin & Finance*
R Evenis *Manager of Works*
M Treasure *Manager Communities & minutes*

3.2 Apologies

Mr K Price
Mr M Watts
Mrs V Watts
Mr M Wilkins
Mrs L Wilkins
Mr D White

4.0 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 *Annual General Meeting of Electors held on the 10th March 2015*

Mrs J Cornish requested five minutes to read the minutes before the motion as they were only received on arrival.

Cr B Whitely granted five minutes to peruse the minutes.

Moved: Cr W Gowland

Seconded: Cr C Ferguson

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 March 2015 to be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

4.2 *Business Arising from Previous Minutes*

Nil

5.0 Adoption of 2014/2015 Annual Report

5.1 *President's Report- Annual Report*

Cr B Whitely passed the floor to Mr G Kerr, Shire President during the 2014/2015 reporting period.

Mr G Kerr requested to add the following statement -

“Regarding moving a vote of no confidence in Cr J McNeil. Mr G Kerr stated that in council a while back there was a verbal agreement made regarding gravel and the purchase of 20,000 m³ from Cr J McNeil. Council didn't take the gravel, an agreement was made and it was all fixed up. Following that Cr J McNeil went to the police and made a statement regarding the CEO (former CEO Martin Whitely) that he was stealing as public servant. The current CEO A O'Halloran was questioned and had to be involved in the investigation, everything was found to be above board.

Following on personally, I applied for a position on the Board of Directors and got through to the last one but the board got word that the Wandering Shire was being investigated and as I was perhaps an accessory to what had gone on at the Shire I was unsuccessful as a Director.

The investigation indicated that I was an accessory to the CEO and no one told him, and everything was above board. I didn't want to write this in my President's report as it would be in a formal document.”

Cr J McNeil asked if he was entitled to respond.

The Shire President stated not at this stage.

5.2 *Chief Executive Officer's Report*

Ms A O'Halloran gave a presentation on the 2014/2015 year. Presentation attached.

Mr I Turton questioned after the presentation what percentage of rates were required to meet the current level.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that it would be desirable to get rates to \$1million at least and this would of course need to happen over 5 to 10 years. Rates at present are undervalued at 20% less than those Shires with a similar valuation and land mass. Rates are only part of income that could be looked at and further investigation would be required.

The Shire President thanked Mr G Kerr for 22 years of service and welcomed new Councillor K Stripe to the team. The Shire President also thanked Mr D Ojha, Manager of Finance and Administration and Ms A O'Halloran, Chief Executive Officer for their efforts in having the Shire's accounts audited in a timely manner. The Shire's auditors stated recently that the Shire had gone from being the last audited to the first.

Adoption of 2014/2015 Annual Report - that the Shire of Wandering's 2014/2015 Annual Report and Audited Financial Report be received as presented.

Moved: Cr J Price

Seconded: Mrs L Muller

That the Shire of Wandering 2014/2015 Annual Report and Audited Financial Report be received as presented.

Carried

6.0 General Business

6.1 *Skate Park*

Mr B Cornish questioned the safety approvals and work place compliance of the Skate Park.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Skate Park was built to Australian Standards, signed off by insurers and 'Playcheck' Assessors yearly as per safety and health legislation and best practice.

6.2 *Roads*

6.3 **Summer Road Program**

Mr I Turton queried the summer grading program and what care would be taken to maintain the gravel roads. Last summer the roads were in a dangerous state and would like to see them improved upon for this summer.

The Shire President advised that Mr I Turton was right in that the roads were in a poor state and with the financial position of the Shire and given the season we have had, moving into summer we will have some issues.

The Works Manager also commented that the winter grading program wasn't a good one due to lack of moisture and the Council had to make a choice of going from a double run to a single run. It was the best decision at the time with the moisture that we had. We aren't looking at a summer grade at present as the budget doesn't allow it but we will be checking roads and grading roads that need a touch up. The road program for 2015/16 is too big to stop and grade.

Mr B Cornish questioned 'what if someone gets killed on the roads due to lack of grading'.

The Shire President asked the Works Manager to take his seat and he declined to answer.

6.4 **Tree Pruning**

Mrs M Whitely questioned why the roadside verges that had been pruned were left with the tree branches and limbs on the verge. She stated it was unsightly.

The Shire President stated the works crew can't stop working as they are doing road works and the logs were too big to be chipped and something will be done later on as money comes available.

Mr J Whitely queried the fire hazard of the logs against the trees and what happens if someone trips on a log?

The Shire President stated that people shouldn't be getting out of their vehicles on the side of the road. If there was a fire, the trees would burn down anyway. Leaving the logs was the best financial outcome with the budget at present and ensured maximum pruning was achieved.

Mr D Cornish questioned why the Shire's excavator wasn't used for the tree pruning.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that in some instances the limbs were too high and the work would have been too slow and costly when you add the cost of traffic management to the work, equally at the same time the excavator was being utilised on other roads as Fourteen Mile Brook, Moramocking and Dwarda East to maximise works achieved.

6.5 Defibrillator

Mrs L Muller thanked the Shire for the placement of the defibrillator and would like to see it advertised publicly where it is located.

The Shire President stated that this was duly noted.

6.6 Public Liability

Mrs M Whitely questioned the Public Liability insurance that was required for the Wandering Fair. It was never required in previous years and the quote they received in the end was cheaper than the Shire's insurer.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that Shire of Wandering's insurer, LGIS stated that as the Wandering Fair was not run by the Shire then only the permanent fixtures at the oval as it stands today is covered. The CEO wasn't sure of previous arrangements in the past but is happy for the Fair Committee to meet with the shire's insurers to further understand the issues.

Rob Curtis stated that whilst researching insurance for the fair, they had come to realise that other regional events have had to secure their own insurance.

Mrs M Whitely questioned the public liability of the Shire's other buildings that are available to hire and that rate payers needed to know.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that when people or clubs hire the Shire's facilities it is worked through with them but if the hirer alters the premises e.g. brought in a parachute and the shire didn't own it, public liability insurance would be required. The CEO is happy to demonstrate what other

shires do in regards to public liability if anyone would like more information, or needed to understand that this is now common practice.

6.7 Waste Management

Mrs S Cornish questioned why the recycle bin in the Wandering town site was removed as it was providing a small community service for rural people.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that Council had issued the order to move the bin as it is/was costing council too much and was getting used more now that full fees had been implemented, this in turn was giving an advantage to those who were fortunate enough to find room in the bin. Unfortunately, Wandering doesn't have economies of scale like others Shires in the region and waste is a large cost.

The Shire President also stated that nothing was free and users have to pay. Waste is now a cost that we have to endure. Council was paying previously when the recycle bin was in the main street and this would ultimately impact rates, when others are paying for recycling directly.

6.8 Response to Presidents Remarks

Cr J McNeil would like to respond to Mr G Kerr's statement, yes 20,000m³ of gravel was contracted and a strip of 5 acres of topsoil was cleared. Council measured the gravel pit and it was all go but after two days council pulled out and Mr G Kerr had gravel removed instead. When Mr James Trail was at the council it was stated in the meeting that council was finding it difficult to find good gravel, the works manager had looked at the McNeil's gravel pit and stated that the gravel was good.

The roads that were damaged in the storm, Ricks Road never were worked on and I opposed the payment but no one could tell me where the money had gone. It had gone to Moromocking Road and the bowling green.

Cr J McNeil was interrupted by the Shire President asking if he had a question and if not, then to end his statement.

Mr B Cornish stated he had a question.

The Shire President again stated to sit quiet until I ask you and if you have a question please raise your hand.

Everything was investigated and there was nothing more to answer. Adding to the President's report, ask a question, please don't bring up the things that have been already investigated.

Cr J McNeil asked where was the money spent?

Cr B Dowsett responded, you know where.

Cr J McNeil now I do.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that distribution of funds were across the flood damage road works. An invoice had to be raised for the projected works and paid in advance to receive the funding. The work was carried out accordingly, some roads that were initially identified didn't get completed because the funds ran out. Main Roads have acquitted the funds and it was identified that the funds just didn't extend to the scope of works identified. The storm damage money has all been accounted for and acquitted.

Cr J McNeil stated I never said it was stolen.

6.9 Road Engineer & Roadworks

Mr R Treasure asked what services of road engineers where being used on the roads within the Shire?

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Shire utilises the services of qualified engineers, regional road companies and Main Roads to sign off before going ahead.

Mr R Treasure asked why water was being used as a stabilisation on the North Wandering – Bannister Road?

The Works Manager stated that new technology was being used and it wasn't water but a chemical that is sprayed with the water to reduce the dust and molecules. Information regarding the technology is available at the Shire office and we would be happy to share if anyone wanted more information.

7.0 Closure of Meeting

The President thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm. The President stated that the minutes for the meeting will be signed off at the November Council meeting and will be published in the December edition of the Wandering Echo.