

SHIRE OF WANDERING

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Our Vision:

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

WANDERING
First settled - January 1861
Wandering Road District est. 1874

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS Minutes 05 February 2020 held at the Wandering Community Centre

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GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS AGENDA

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting declared open at 7:33pm by the Shire President, Cr Ian Turton.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:				
Cr I Turton	Shire President		Cr B Whitely	
Cr G Parsons	Deputy Shire President		Cr M Watts	
Cr J Price			Belinda Knight	Chief Executive Officer
Mr G Curtis	Councillor-Elect		Barry Gibbs	EMTS
Mr P Treasure	Councillor-Elect			
Public				
Barry Gibbs	Lisa & Kurt Boddy	Monica Treasure	Jacquie & Brian Cornish	Stephen Bullock
Jim McNeil	Tom Martin	Kelvin Price	Mr R Treasure	Lee Muller
Apologies:				
David & Steph Cornish	Murray Cornish	Linda Barge	Bob & Cheryl Little	Virginia Watts

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1. GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD – 14/11/2018

DECISION

Moved Cr Whitely

Seconded Mr P Treasure

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of Electors held 14/11/2018, and as attached be received.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4. 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

4.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Shire President, Cr Ian Turton presented his report as follows:

I would like to thank electors for their patience regarding the delay in holding this meeting. The reasons for this are numerous including a changeover of CEO's right at the end of the financial year, some accrued holiday time, our audit not being signed off until late November and of course the January holiday period.

I would like to thank Councillors, staff and the wider community for their support since taking on the Presidency. I look forward to operating with a full Council of 7 members and welcome new Councillors, Gary Curtis and Pau Treasure.

Many thanks to ex-Councillor Chad Ferguson, who retired from Council last year and who we will be officially recognising at a Council meeting shortly.

There are no doubt, many challenges facing us as a small shire. Our somewhat limited ability to access improved grant funding will mean Council will need to develop priorities very carefully.

As an example, we are currently reviewing the final costs associated with the new bitumen construction work on the York-Williams road hoping that it will provide a financial guide to our involvement in this type of work in the future.

We will be challenging our senior staff to identify areas where efficiencies can be improved and still stay within budget boundaries.

We are also in the early stages of a rate review to ensure that all land owners contribute fairly to the financial resources of the Shire.

I will now ask Belinda our CEO to lead you through the 2018/2019 Annual Report and other matters she wishes to raise. Belinda was only with our Shire for a very short time at the end of this period but has put together a brief presentation for the meeting.

Cr Brendan Whitely, was President during this period and may wish to add or comment as well. His Local Government knowledge continues to be most valuable.

4.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The CEO presented a brief Power Point presentation.

Cr Whitely spoke to the Annual Report in his capacity as Shire President for the 2018/19 financial year.

4.3. AUDITOR'S REPORT

ADOPTION OF 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr Watts

Seconded Mr Tom Martin

That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30/06/2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

Mr K Price queried the auditor comment regarding ratios.

CEO responded that through the use of the Long-Term Financial Plan, ratios are showing a positive trend, however the Operating Surplus Ratio is very difficult to achieve for small local governments.

ADOPTION OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Moved Mr K Price

Seconded Mr P Treasure

That the Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 30/06/2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Watts – commented that the policy for road clearing lacks common sense.

Shire President noted that the Regulations are under review, however holds out little hope that it will become easier for local government.

EMTS advised that if there are individual trees of concern, contact the Shire and an assessment will be made, and every effort made to rectify the system.

Mr P Treasure – from 2017/2018 – queried why when it was stated that WANDRRA claims were made in that financial year, was there still \$740,000 remaining outstanding in 2018/2019.

Shire President advised of the difficulties in the management of the claims, and the need for 100% compliance before any funds were released.

Cr Whitely commented that the previous CEO was under enormous pressure in managing the claims and did the best she could.

Mrs Cornish asked why the Shire puts a harvest and vehicle movement ban whenever there is a fire, even how small the fire is? Requested that the location of the fire be noted on the SMS.

Cr Parsons responded that the movement bans are put on to ensure that all harvest and vehicle movement ceases until the fire is under control, to avoid multiple fires when resources may not be available.

Cr Whitely reiterated Cr Parsons comments.

Mr McNeil stated that lack of communications is an extreme concern when faced with an emergency.

Shire President advised that the Shire is doing what it can, and will keep doing so.

Mr K Price noted that the Optus tower was working during the recent blackout, when the Telstra tower was not.

Mr Treasure asked what grants are forthcoming for road works.

Shire President advised that Regional Road Group funding and Roads to Recovery funding is available and secure for the next four years.

The Shire President also commented that the Shire is aiming to work closer with the two mining companies to achieve positive outcomes for the community.

Mr McNeil advised that there is still some flood damage that has not been fully repaired or reinstated.

Shire President responded that staff will be advised of these issues and the matter will be dealt with in due course.

Mrs Cornish asked if there were still complaints regarding caravans and camping at Pumphreys?

Shire President responded that there were very few complaints, and that the Shire likes to promote this area.

6. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:37pm