



Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held in the Wandering Community Centre on Tuesday, 9th February 2010.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.35pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Cr. BE Dowsett, President
Cr. GG Kerr, Deputy President
Cr. KJ Price
Cr. KJ Barge
Cr. DF White
Mr. MG Whitely, CEO
Mr M Sewell
Mr B Nottle
Mr B Treasure
Mrs MC Whitely
Mr M Watts
Mrs L Muller
Mr R Curtis

Mrs S Cornish
Mr M Schorer
Mrs L Barge
Mrs V Watts
Mr J Martin
Mr D Martin
Mr B Whitely

Apologies

Cr JR McNeil
Cr J Schorer
Mr B Cornish
Mr J Whitely
Mr I Turton

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 12th FEBRUARY 2009

The Minutes of the previous Annual Electors Meeting, held 12th February 2009.

Moved Mrs MC Whitely seconded Mrs L Muller that the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting, held 12th February 2009, be confirmed.

CARRIED

3.2 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was made available prior to the meeting and distributed on the night of the meeting.

Moved Mrs MC Whitely seconded Mrs L Muller that the Annual Report incorporating the Presidents Report and Chief Executive Officers Report be received.

CARRIED

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

3.3.1 NRMO OFFICER (LANDCARE)

Mrs Whitely asked Council if they were looking into replacing the Landcare officer or if any discussions had been held with neighbouring shires to share the resources of a Landcare officer. The President advised that the existing arrangement between Wandering, Boddington and Cuballing was in the process of being wound up and that further consideration to the position would be made after the winding up process was complete.

3.3.2 TREE PRUNING

Mr Watts said tree pruning on all Shire roads needs to be addressed as it is causing problems for large farm machinery and vehicles to negotiate over hanging tree canopies. The President advised that a contractor was used this year to address this very issue, however due to the costs associated with the tree pruning only several roads within the Shire were addressed. Further provision for tree pruning is likely to be considered in future budgets.

3.3.3 BANNISTER ROAD

Mr Watts asked if Council had considered sealing the Bannister Road as it was used considerably now to travel to the Gold Mine. The President advised that costs prohibited this from occurring and a request for funds from the Boddington Gold Mine Social Infrastructure project has been made previously without any success.

3.3.4 FIREBREAKS

Mr Sewell raised concerns as to the state of some of the properties within the Shire and asked if residents had been alerted to the requirements. The President advised that a number of infringement notices had been sent out this year and the Chief Executive Officer agreed that certain landowners needed to be educated on the importance of fire safety.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

Cr Dowsett presented the Annual Report for the 2008/09 financial year.

Moved Mr B Whitely seconded Mrs L Muller that the Annual Financial Statement and Auditor's Report, be received.

CARRIED

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 ROAD MAINTENANCE

Mr Watts raised concerns as to the deterioration of certain roads within the Shire. Council acknowledged that the current condition of the roads had declined and while the staffing issues of the last 12 months had made it difficult at times to carry out the road program, the matter needed to be addressed.

Mr Schorer indicated that the condition of the roads prior to, and during harvest was poor and that the maintenance of roads needed to take place prior to this time. Council acknowledged that road maintenance and road construction needed to be addressed.

Mr Sewell asked if the drag was currently being used to grade any of the roads. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the drag had been in operation for the past 4-6 weeks up until as recently as last week, however all of road maintenance crew are now gravel sheeting on the York Williams Road.

Mr Nottle suggested that the increased carrying capacity of trucks in the district was also a contributing factor to the declining condition of some roads.

5.2 COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

Mr Watts asked where things were currently at with the Council Amalgamations. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Deputy President Kerr, Cr Barge and he had attended a Local Government Reform forum earlier that day and the tone of the forum was that amalgamations would not be forced and would remain a voluntary process. However the most recent development had been the establishment of Regional Transition Groups, with Wandering being grouped with Boddington, Pingelly and Brookton with the view of these Regional Transition Groups transitioning into a single entity by 2013. Again this is being touted as a voluntary process with the proposed meeting date for the first Regional Transition Group meeting scheduled for 16 February 2010.

Mrs Watts asked what financial benefits were proposed to encourage amalgamations. The Chief Executive Officer responded that the financial benefits were minimal given the number of Councils being asked to amalgamate. Currently only \$2.5m has been allocated under the Royalties for Regions program for the 139 Councils in WA being asked to amalgamate.

5.3 STAFFING

Mr Watts queried the current staffing shortages in the Shire and asked whether any consideration had been given to address the problem. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Shire was currently operating without a Works Supervisor or a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, both of whom left the Shire in October and November respectively. The Chief Executive Officer stated that the current staffing situation was to be discussed as part of the Agenda at the next Council meeting.

Mr Treasure suggested that the appointment of a Works Supervisor or Deputy Chief Executive Officer required someone with an extensive background in road maintenance.

5.4 RESIDENTIAL & INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Mr Watts asked Council if they were happy with the progression of the Residential, Lifestyle and Industrial subdivisions. The President advised that building in both Residential and Rural Residential areas was progressing well, however due to the financial costs associated with developing the proposed Industrial Subdivision this project has unfortunately been put on hold.

5.5 DISABILITY ACCESS

Mr J Martin raised concerns as to the lack of access points for disabled persons at the Public Toilets, Shire Offices and around the town. Council acknowledged Mr Martin's concerns and the need to address disabled access points in the future.

5.6 GRANT FUNDING

Mrs Watts asked if Council was aware of various grant funding that may be available for projects. The Chief Executive Officer advised that he was aware of the numerous funding opportunities available and that he has a Grants Directory which he would be happy to email or post to any interested persons.

5.7 FUEL FACILITY

Mr Nottle asked if Council had given any consideration to the provision of a fuel facility in Wandering. The President advised that Council were looking at building a fuel facility opposite the Shire offices. The President also informed people that Council discussed the initial plans for the site at the December meeting and while the plans still require a fair amount of work, Council are keen to progress the project in the near future.

Mr B Whitely asked if the location for the fuel facility had to be in the main street or whether another suitable site could be chosen. The President advised that the current site located on Watts Street was chosen to allow the possibility of a store or other business opportunities to adjourn the fuel facility.

5.8 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Mr Watts questioned whether further consideration had been given to the Shire Office extensions, or if any consideration had been made to build a new administration office that could be used to house some form of health service or like activity. Council advised extensions to the administration office were budgeted and that tenders had been received for the proposed works. However as a result of the tenders coming in over the project budget nothing further had progressed to this stage.

5.9 WATER MANAGEMENT

Mr Sewell asked if Council had considered implementing any form of strategic plans looking at water management issues. The Chief Executive Officer advised that he had been in contact with the Water Corporation to discuss the possibility of utilising the town dams and that other alternatives were being looked at in an endeavour to reduce the reliance on scheme water. The Chief Executive Officer also made mention that he would contact the Shire of Brookton to see what plans they have implemented for their Shire.

5.10 NOOMBLING NORRINE RD

Mr Sewell asked if Council would give any consideration to reduce dust suppression for houses located along the Noombling Norrine Road. The President replied that this was not achievable unless all such areas in the Shire were addressed and this was not a viable option.

5.11 COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr J Martin commented that the sensor has been permanently on at night time and also requested if the area on the western side of the Community Centre could be more adequately lit. The Chief Executive Officer replied that an electrician had been to fix the sensor several weeks ago and that the request for additional lighting would be investigated further.

6. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all those in attendance, Mrs Carol White from the Wandering the CWA for catering for the Meeting and declared the Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

These Minutes were accepted by the Council at the Ordinary Council meeting on 17th February 2010.

CR B E DOWSETT, Chairman