



Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held in the Wandering Community Centre on Monday, 10th February 2014.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President, Cr Kerr, declared the meeting open at 7.35pm and welcomed everyone for attending.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Present

Cr. GG Kerr, President
Cr. BE Dowsett, Deputy President
Cr. C Ferguson
Cr B Whitely
Cr J Price
Cr J McNeil
Cr W Gowland
Mr. MG Whitely, CEO
Mr P Rawlings, Mgr Administration & Finance
Mrs L Wilkins
Mrs J Cornish
Mr B Cornish
Mrs J Marsh
Mrs V Watts
Mr M Watts
Mr K Price
Ms L Muller
Mr R Treasure
Mr I Turton
Mrs S Cornish
Mr D Cornish
Mr G Treasure
Mrs T Reitmajer
Mrs L Barge
Mr G Parsons

Apologies

Mr M Schorer, Mrs L Schorer, Mr P Monk, Mr J Whitely, Mr P Whitely, Mrs MC Whitely, Mr K Barge, Mr M Cornish and Mrs C Cornish.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 18 APRIL 2013

The Minutes of the previous Annual Electors Meeting, held 18 April 2013 were made available prior to the meeting and distributed on the night of the meeting.

Moved Mrs L Muller seconded Mr M Watts that the minutes for the Annual Electors Meeting held 18 April 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

3.2 PRESIDENT'S, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S & AUDITOR'S REPORTS

The Annual Report inclusive of the above three (3) reports was made available prior to the meeting and distributed on the night of the meeting.

Moved Cr B Dowsett seconded Mr M Watts that the Presidents Report for 2012/13 be received.

CARRIED

Moved Mr K Price seconded Mrs L Muller that the Chief Executive Officers Report for 2012/13 be received.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer gave an overview of the financial impacts resulting from the loss of the *Country Local Government Fund* and the *Regional Australia Development Fund*.

The Chief Executive Officer outlined achievements to date and current status of various projects including the sealing of Reid Road, widening and sealing of Crossman - Dwarda Road, completion of the Humes Way residence, replacement of a grader and front-end loader, major progress towards reinstatement of flood-damaged rural roads, and the bowling green and multi-purpose courts.

He further stated that these projects had been achieved without major reliance on Council's cash reserves.

Moved Cr W Gowland seconded CR C Ferguson that the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2013 be received.

CARRIED

4. GENERAL BUSINESS**4.1 ROAD RESEALS**

Mr Watts queried whether re-sealing four to five kilometres of roads was sufficient to meet Council's asset management targets.

The Chief Executive Officer replied that given the current financial constraints (including the proposed reduction of \$70 million in regional road group funding over the next three years) Council's efforts were reasonable.

4.2 ROAD FUNDING

Mr Price queried what impact the proposed reduction of \$70 million in regional road group funding over the next three years would have on the district.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that no details had been received from either the WA Local Government Association or the Transport Department to date but that the Shire was well-

positioned to receive available funds via the Wheatbelt South regional road grouping due to its high traffic counts.

4.3 ROAD MANAGEMENT PRIORITISATION

Mr Turton queried the methodology Council uses to prioritise road upgrades given the deterioration of a section of the northern end of the North Bannister - Wandering Road.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that Council had taken a conscious decision to defer works on the northern end of the North Bannister-Wandering Road to enable the completion of widening and re-sealing works on Crossman - Dwarda Road to the Boddington boundary.

Preliminary works on North Bannister-Wandering Road would be undertaken in 2014/15 with a view to reconstructing the effected section the following year.

4.4 WASTE TRANSFER STATION & REGIONAL WASTE SITE

Mr Price enquired as to what impact the loss of the *Country Local Government Fund* grant to construct a regional waste site with several other local governments would have on the closure of the Wandering tip in favour of a waste transfer facility.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that Council had the option of transferring waste to either Williams or Boddington and thus would complete the transfer site in the current year.

Discussion ensued regarding the risks associated with operating a landfill site from illegal dumping and strict compliance with licencing requirements with all agreeing fencing the site, installing CCTV and opening at set times while being manned was the best way forward.

4.5 DRUMMUSTER

Mr Watts enquired whether the existing chemical drum collection point would be retained and whether drum muster collections can be standardised in future.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that drums would still be stored at the same site at the waste facility and that collections would be held half-yearly in March and September.

4.6 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE & COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mr Watts enquired as to whether the office renovations and extensions have been completed.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that most works were completed in 2012/13 with only the patio, car park sealing and car port erection planned for 2013/14. The first two items had already been completed but the carport proposal may be reviewed.

4.7 ASSET REVALUATIONS

Mr R Treasure queried the reasons behind the \$411,000 asset revaluation reserve.

The Mgr. Administration and Finance advised that, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Council was required to revalue plant and equipment in 2012/13, land and buildings in 2013/14 and infrastructure assets in 2014/15. An independent valuer had been engaged to undertake the plant and equipment valuations.

The Mgr. Administration and Finance further advised that revaluations would impact depreciation charges and ultimately Council asset sustainability ratios

4.8 STRUCTURAL REFORM

Mr Price commented that the requirement for revised values appeared aimed at proving rural local governments were unsustainable and would lead to amalgamations and higher rates. He further stated that any attempt at forced amalgamations should be resisted and questioned whether any contact had been received from the Shire of Serpentine – Jarrahdale regarding their proposal to annex a portion of the north west Wandering district, west of Albany Highway.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that Serpentine – Jarrahdale's CEO had contacted him and explained that the reason for the proposal was an alignment of State Emergency Service boundaries. An assessment of the implications of the proposed annexure would be undertaken by staff as part of the metropolitan reform measures.

4.9 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Mr Watts queried what measures Council proposes to address the issue of financial sustainability and whether it would include staff reductions as he felt staff numbers had increased in recent years.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that staff numbers had actually decreased by 0.5 full time equivalents since his appointment and that the *Country Local Government Fund* and the *Regional Australia Development Fund* could be accommodated but not reductions in road funding. He further advised staff were looking at its options for the future.

4.10 HEART DEFIBRILLATOR

Mrs Muller asked why the heart defibrillator was not made available in a public place where it can be accessed at any time of the day.

All present agreed this was a good idea and the Chief Executive Officer undertook to initiate this proposal.

4.11 SKATE PARK

Mrs Wilkins asked if the location of the new skate park was set in stone as she would prefer it be located near the Community Centre playground so adults could supervise both younger and older children at the same time.

Cr Dowsett responded that the park would mostly be used by unsupervised youths and it would be best located on the recreation reserve in Gnowing Street.

Mr Watts queried whether there had been any consultation with operators of other skate parks. Discussion ensued on the merits of both locations and the perceived benefits of consultation given the change to the location of the new bowling greens.

The Chief Executive Officer corrected some misinformation regarding the creation of concept drawings and advised that there has been extensive consultation over a long period of time.

The Shire President advised Council was not in favour of locating the skate park near the playground as this would not allow for expansion of the multi-purpose courts if demand warranted such.

Mrs J Cornish asked whether an incorporated club was required to apply for funding and was advised that the Shire had applied for funding in its own name.

Mr Price stated his preference was for the skate park being located next to the bowling green.

Mr Turton highlighted the Shire's funding limitations and queried the need for all the new recreation facilities and cited poor consultation and the costs.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the ongoing cost of recreation facilities was a fraction of the cost of maintaining roads and that the cash contributions from Council to construct the facilities was minimal.

Mr Turton observed that in-kind contributions were still a (opportunity) cost.

Mr Watts reminded the meeting that much of the site works for the town oval was undertaken by the Lions Club and this fact should be acknowledged.

4.12 NORTH WANDERING ROAD

Mr B Cornish queried when the flood damage repairs would be completed to three locations on the North Wandering Road and requested the erection of hazard signage.

4.13 COMMUNITY CENTRE MAINTENANCE

Mrs J Cornish requested the removal of tree branches scratching the community centre roof.

4.14 WANDERING TENNIS CLUB

Mrs L Muller queried the status of the Wandering Tennis Club, whether any funds are still held and why had these funds not been placed into a publicly-available account.

Mr B Cornish advised the club was only in recess and he retained control of the funds pending its re-establishment.

5. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President acknowledged all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.