



**MINUTES FOR THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF ELECTORS
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY**

12 February 2014

SHIRE OF MINGENEW



WILDFLOWER COUNTRY

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UNCONFIRMED

SHIRE OF MINGENEW

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON

12 February 2014

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, Cr Michelle Bagley, declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

MA Bagley	President	Rural Ward
PJ Gledhill	Deputy President	Rural Ward
MP Pearce	Councillor	Town Ward
AT Sobey	Councillor	Town Ward
HM Newton	Councillor	Town Ward
CR Lucken	Councillor	Town Ward

STAFF

MC Sully	Chief Executive Officer
CL Watson	Manager of Finance & Administration
J Sully	Executive Support Officer

ELECTORS

M Thomas	
I Thomas	
J Thomas	
D Bagley	6.10pm
R McTaggart	6.14pm
H McTaggart	6.14pm

APOLOGIES

GJ Cosgrove	Councillor	Rural Ward
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3.0 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Questions taken on notice will be dealt with at Item 7 – General Business.

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

There were no questions regarding the previous Minutes.

COUNCIL DECISION ITEM 5.0

Moved: Councillor Cr Newton Seconded: Councillor Gledhill

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held 20 March 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 6/0

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COUNCIL DECISION – ITEM 6.1

Moved: Councillor Pearce Seconded: Councillor Newton

That the President's Report, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 6/0

6.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

COUNCIL DECISION – ITEM 6.2

Moved: Councillor Pearce Seconded: Councillor Lucken

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 6/0

6.3 AUDITOR'S REPORT

COUNCIL DECISION – ITEM 6.3

Moved: Councillor Gledhill Seconded: Councillor Pearce

That the Auditor's Report, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 6/0

6.4 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNCIL DECISION – ITEM 6.4

Moved: Councillor Gledhill Seconded: Councillor Newton

That the Annual Financial Report, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 6/0

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Questions From Mrs. Jill Thomas**Question**

TELSTRA – Status of funding and construction of the Mobile Tower in Yandanooka area

Answer

Funding is provisional as Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) has not yet endorsed it's proposed contribution.

Funding for Yandanooka Mobile Phone Tower	Balance
Actual cost	\$623,552
Less TELSTRA contribution	\$623,552
Less CLGF Regional	\$488,000 (Confirmed)
Less Mid West Development Commission	\$345,143 (Confirmed)
Less Shire of Mingenew	\$125,000 (Unconfirmed)
	\$0 (Confirmed)

Construction

No date for start of construction has been determined due to unconfirmed funding from MWDC.

MWDC has not yet confirmed funding commitment due to a disagreement between MWDC and regional group of Shires regarding the number of mobile phone towers that need to be upgraded throughout the region.

Shire President Cr Bagley added current information regarding the reasoning behind Telstra and the Mid West Development Commission refusing to fund the number of mobile phone towers requested.

Question

KEY WORKER ACCOMMODATION – What type of person fits the “key worker” category and will qualify for this sort of accommodation?

Answer

The type of person who would fit the category of Key Worker would be one who is:

A professional or semi professional person or tradesperson.

Working for a recognised government agency, business organisation or health service provider or establishing a new business enterprise in the Shire

Key Worker is a generic term and each request for accommodation will determined on the individual circumstances and availability of accommodation.

Note:

The Shire is using CLGF funds to construct two new accommodation units:

If a person is requiring short term (several days to several weeks) accommodation in Mingenew to undertake necessary work activities in the Shire, one unit will be made available for short term use and will be fully furnished.

The second unit will be available for key workers seeking long term accommodation and will be unfurnished.

Question

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT – I was asked to fill out this form when wanting to request maintenance on seating at the Recreation Centre. It was not a complaint and therefore not a suitable form for this occasion. Maintenance was done, but will the top row of seating be reinstated near the football dugouts?

Answer

The NOTICE of COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT form can also be used for maintenance requests. The Shire has an identical system of response for both maintenance requests and complaints. For compliments we simply say thank you.

At the AGM the CEO advised that the words 'REQUEST FOR SERVICE' will be added to the existing COMPLAINTS/COMPLIMENTS form as the process for dealing with complaints and requests is the same.

Answer

The back row of seating will not be replaced because of the underground power cables servicing the light towers, reticulation system and also the main power line for the oval. The Shire will ask the sporting groups that use the oval if they consider that more seats are needed.

Question

FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS PLAN – How do items get listed on this Plan?

As our community's needs and ability to pay change over time do items get added and deleted? How is this done?

Answer

The Forward Capital Works Plan is a summary of the activities, estimated costs and timelines listed in the **2012 - 10 year Strategic Community Plan (SCP)** (a copy is on the Shire website and available in printed form from the Office). The Shire is required by legislation to have a SCP and ensure that it is prepared with community consultation.

Council reviews all of the suggestions from the community, Councillors and Shire staff and then develops the draft SCP which is then reviewed by the Department of Local Government and the community. Each year the SCP is reviewed to see what has been achieved and what is still possible or may need to be deferred.

Many of the major activities listed in the SCP are mostly dependent on external funding. Each year as Council prepares a draft annual budget, the SCP is reviewed to see what is proposed for the financial year and what funding has been secured or is available.

Occasionally a funding opportunity arises and Council may apply for the funding and use it to progress an activity listed in the SCP and occasionally a funding source disappears (e.g. CLGF for Individual Councils) and activities get deferred.

Question

COMMUNICATION – The Shire Notes in Mingenew Matters are welcome and I read that we can find information on Facebook. Is Facebook appropriate for Local Govt. information?

Most Ratepayers have email and it would be an easy exercise and more appropriate to inform us in this type of media.

Answer

Many Local Governments are now using Facebook, especially to communicate with the younger generation. Following a complaint that Council needed to improve its communication with the community, Council agreed to increase the use of its SMS system, have regular input in the Mingenew Matters, upgrade the Shire web page and develop a Facebook page.

Of these improvements, Facebook has been the most successful method of communicating with the community, even the MP for this region uses the Shire's Facebook page to provide information to the community.

Statistics provided by Facebook indicate that the Shire's Facebook page gets hits from a wide range of age groups and also records that the Shire page has had 106 positive hits, (likes) and 0 negative hits (unlikes) and has 106 registered followers since its inception in June 2013.

Email is a good medium, however it has restrictions on the amount of data that can be transmitted with each send. The Shire is limited to 5MB per email and numerous Council documents would need to be sent in a number of smaller emails.

Shire President Cr Bagley said this will be set up – notices requesting people to provide their email address will be sent out and email system put in place.

Question

Why is the Shire Agenda no longer on the website?

Answer

The Agendas are on the website and are placed there each month once the Agenda has been distributed to Councillors. The Agendas are in the same position as they were in the old website ie under Our Council.

A demonstration was given of where to find the Agendas on the website and also how to correct incompatibility of Internet and website.

If any person has a problem finding the agendas on the Shire web site please contact the Shire and a staff member will provide assistance to locate the Shire Agendas.

Question

WATER PARK – Why was the proposal for this facility put in to the public arena before all the costings had been finalised.

Could you please provide the results of the For and Against submissions with regard to the Water park. All submissions received by the advertised closing date should have been taken into account not those 2 that arrived in time for the Council Meeting (2 days earlier than closing date). This could be construed as being biased towards the For argument.

If the time for the maintenance of the Water Park was to be found from the current staff – what area/areas was this time to be found from.

Answer

The water park project has been deferred indefinitely at this stage as the funding option (CLGF Individual Council) is no longer available to the Shire. If it is to be considered in the future a complete proposal will be developed before being presented for public review.

As a number of variables may change before the project may be reconsidered (e.g. cost, changes to the composition of community members, size of the park) the data from the earlier review will be disregarded.

Questions From Mr. Ian Thomas

Question

TENNIS COURTS – What plans does the Shire have to give members of the Mingenew Tennis Club a playable No. 1?

They have not had this court for 3 playing seasons.

It is unacceptable to me that all grassed areas (eg Race track, hockey oval, football oval) are in a satisfactory condition for the purpose they are grown for and the tennis court is not.

Answer

As explained to Murray Thomas the work that has been carried out to try and rectify the problem with court 1 is as follows:

We dug out the affected area and replaced the old soil with imported soil from Geraldton. We then added gypsum, soil conditioner, GT green, dynamic lifter, and rotary hoed it several times with a machine loaned to Council by the Works Manager. We also hired a slabbing machine, cut sections out of the courts and placed them in the affected areas.

Some of the grass we planted didn't take and died, so we then brought (\$600.00) of new grass from Geraldton, planted that and top dressed it with sand also from Geraldton. It is now slowly coming back. We have also put in a \$3,000 sub soil drain to stop underground excess water saturating the courts and adding to the problems.

Everything possible to improve that area has been tried; we have had experts from Perth and Geraldton in to assist. We have had the soil tested, the water tested, everything possible has been done, if there is anyone that knows better or can come up with appropriate suggestions for quicker improvement please come forward.

The other maintenance activities that are planned for the tennis courts are to: carry out cross Verdi cutting, aerating, coring and top dressing to raise and level the area.

A full fertiliser program will be carried out by specialists from Perth, as we do every year. We send soil and grass samples to Perth to be analysed and the fertilizing program is determined by the results.

I hope the intent of this question is not to suggest that other Shire playing fields receive more special treatment than the tennis club courts, that would be an insult to the Shire staff who have made every effort to improve the tennis courts, All the Shire playing fields receive the best care that can be given by our dedicated staff.

Following additional information from Murray Thomas at the meeting the CEO suggested that people who are experts in the area of tennis court surfaces be brought in (as was the case with the bowling club). This will be organised.

Question

RACE TRACK – What is the cost of maintaining the race track now that it is maintained all year round? I accept that the straight in front of the building which is maintained to a higher standard that the rest of the track is not solely a race club cost.

Answer

The race track receives minimal water and fertiliser all year. The straight is the only part that gets Verti mowed and aerated during the cooler months. Increased watering and fertilising commences around early November each year so that the track is ready for the races. This practise has been carried out for the last 7 years and is very successful.

Watering with the moveable reticulation pipes is carried out in summer time when strong Easterly winds cause significant water drift and water does not reach some sides of parts of the track.

Annual costs to maintain the track are:

	Budget	Actual	
13/14	\$ 44,600	\$ 27,586	To 06/02/14
12/13	\$ 54,600	\$ 40,679	
11/12	\$ 109,400	\$ 113,162	Inc \$43,094 in Reticulation Materials
10/11	\$ 82,000	\$ 41,663	

Question

COMMUNITY BUS – Please provide details of the usage of the bus over the last 12 months and at what cost to the Ratepayers.

Answer

Hires: School – 7 Hires (16 Days), Cricket – 5-6 Hires (5-6 Days), Private – 1 Hire (1Day) & Bowling – 1 Hire (1 Day)
these numbers are to 30/06/13

Expenditure:

13/14 (to 5/2/14) - \$1,129.43,

12/13 - \$1,488.76 = \$2,618.16 (\$400 for sign writing accessed from grant funds)

Mr David Bagley advised that there are misunderstandings within the community of the cost to use the bus. The perception is that it is too expensive. The information needs to be out there in an understandable format.

The CEO responded that the fees will be readvertised and also put on Council's website.

Question

How much more money was needed to finish sealing Coalseam Road?

Answer

CEO advised that the question would be taken on notice. He will seek information from the Works Manager and advise.

Question

Mr McTaggart asked what the process is to get a little gravel every now and again to fix up bad patches on Scroops Road.

Answer

The CEO advised Mr McTaggart to send in a submission for this item to be included in the budget.

14.0 CLOSURE

The Shire President thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

These minutes were confirmed at an Annual General Meeting of Electors on [Click here to enter text.](#)

Signed _____

Presiding Officer

Date: _____

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