



**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY
20 MARCH 2013.**

SHIRE OF MINGENEW



Table of Contents

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2	ATTENDANCE	3
2.1	PRESENT.....	3
2.2	APOLOGIES.....	3
2.3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES	4
4	REPORTS	4
4.1	PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4
4.2	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	4
4.3	EHO/WORKS MANAGER'S REPORT/STATUTORY REPORTS.....	4
4.4	AUDITOR'S REPORT	4
4.5	ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	4
5	GENERAL BUSINESS	4
6	CLOSURE	7

SHIRE OF MINGENEW

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 20 MARCH 2013 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding member, Cr MA Bagley declared the meeting open at 6.32pm and welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

2 ATTENDANCE

2.1 PRESENT

MA Bagley	President	Rural Ward
PJ Gledhill	Deputy President	Town Ward
PJ Ward	Councillor	Rural Ward
GJ Cosgrove	Councillor	Rural Ward
HM Newton	Councillor	Town Ward
AT Sobey	Councillor	Town Ward
MS Sully	Chief Executive Officer	
C Watson	Manager, Finance & Administration	
J Sully	Minutes	
Ian Thomas	Elector	
David Bagley	Elector	
Robert Newton	Elector	
Jill Holmes	Elector	
Jon Holmes	Elector	
Sally McTaggart	Elector	
Rob McTaggart	Elector	
Roma Parker	Elector	
Doug Parker	Elector	
Darrin Lee	Elector	

2.2 APOLOGIES

MP Pearce	Councillor	Town Ward
Steph Bligh-Lee	Elector	

2.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES

Moved: Councillor Ward

Seconded: Councillor Cosgrove

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Electors held Wednesday 19 October 2011 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 6/0

4 REPORTS

4.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

4.3 EHO/WORKS MANAGER'S REPORT/STATUTORY REPORTS

4.4 AUDITOR'S REPORT

4.5 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Moved: Councillor Gledhill

Seconded: Councillor Newton

That the 2011/2012 Annual Report, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 6/0

5 GENERAL BUSINESS

There being no questions taken on notice Shire President Bagley invited questions from the floor.

QUESTION: Mr Ian Thomas asked if the Shire has sessions to see where costs can be cut.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that Council monitors costs constantly and owing to this diligence it has been possible to turn around the projected deficit to a surplus figure.

QUESTION: Mr Robert Newton asked how this has been achieved.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley asked the Manager of Finance and Administration (MFA) to outline the main savings which are:

- \$90,000 saved on South Road (\$30,000 saving for Council)
- \$90,000 approximately on Mingenew/Mullewa Road (\$30,000 saving for Council)
- \$30,000 on general maintenance of sport and recreation facilities.
- Other general savings throughout.

Mr Newton noted that this is a big turn around and the MFA advised that it had also been discovered that a grant had not been claimed. Mr Newton complimented Council on the turn around, but stated that the grant money should have been found prior to the budget being set with increased rates by 50%. The MFA advised that the actual rate increase is 10% with the rest being attributable to revaluation by the Valuer General's Department.

The MFA also advised that the \$2.2M expenditure on Depot Hill Irwin River crossing had caused a temporary cash flow issue, because expenses needed to be paid prior to being claimed from Funders.

Councillor Newton stated that Council goes through the budget each month and question any overspends. The process has needed to be ruthless.

QUESTION: Mr Darrin Lee asked what the new outdoor structure at the recreation centre had cost, what process was followed, and when was it approved as he can't find mention of it in either minutes or the budget.

RESPONSE: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) advised that he would take the question on notice as it was approved and budgeted for before his and the Manager of Finance and Administration's (MFA) time and it takes time for funding to come through. Councillor Ward said that he believed when it was initially passed a \$50,000 grant was applied for, steel was bought and stored until the rest of the money was available.

Research has shown that the structure is part of the Mingenew Sport and Recreation Plan (10 year facilities action plan) which was presented and adopted at the Ordinary Council meeting on 20 April 2011. The structure is a Capital Works item in the 2010-2011 Budget (adopted on 18 August 2010) to be funded with a Federal Infrastructure grant of \$30,000

QUESTION: Mr Lee asked why a resealed, 10km stretch of Coalseam Road, which is a busy tourist road, has varying widths..

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley said that the question would be taken on notice. The road works on Coalseam have been undertaken in sections that vary in length according to the amount of funding available in each particular year. Work on the road also varies year to year between resealing existing damaged sealed surfaces and widening single lane sections, whichever is believed to be most urgent.

Council is committed to gradually widening the bitumen seal on the full length of Coalseam Road to the Main Roads specification of 7.4 mts which will make it a safe tourist route. Until the works are fully complete, some sections will vary in width.

QUESTION: Mr Lee then asked why in excess of \$300,000 had been removed from the maintenance on minor roads program for the Depot Hill/Irwin River crossing.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that CLGF R4R funds of \$312,000 are due to be paid on in the 2012/2013 financial year and will be transferred back to the road program.

QUESTION: Mr Lee asked whether there is a road inspection program and is it being done.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that regular road inspections are carried out, but there is a problem with getting information re the bus routes.

QUESTION: Mr Rob McTaggart asked why he had received no response to a letter written to all Councillors with issues relating to Mingenew Expo. He also questioned invoices that had been sent several months after Expo for repairs.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley said that Council had been disappointed that Mr McTaggart had not presented his concerns to the October 2011 meeting as they had been advised he would. They waited for him, but he did not turn up. Shire President Bagley did not recall receiving a letter from Mr McTaggart and other Councillors agreed. The CEO advised that there had been a letter sent to him from Mr McTaggart which he had forwarded to all Councillors by email. The letter had consisted of a number of statements and Shire President Bagley remarked that she had taken the letter as comment only.

QUESTION: Mrs Jill Holmes enquired what is the communication policy within Council.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley said that the issue has been discussed and staff are now aware.

QUESTION: Mr Ian Thomas asked whether the new houses under construction are revenue neutral.

RESPONSE: The CEO advised that they are through Royalties for Regions Funding.

QUESTION: Mr Thomas asked what is happening with the Telstra tower.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that 4 Shires are applying for collective funding, but this has been held up pending the 2013 State Government Election.

QUESTION: Mr Thomas asked the MFA what is the labour rate charge when budgeting for work at sports venues.

RESPONSE: The MFA advised that there are on costs plus direct labour costs and the figure depends on the pay rate of the person doing the job. There are public works overheads of 86% of the hourly rate plus plant costs.

QUESTION: Mr Thomas asked how the tennis courts are going to be fixed up.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that options are being looked at and they have had discussion with Murray Thomas. Drainage problems are currently being addressed.

Councillor Ward said that clubs will be more responsible for where money is spent and will have a direct relationship with the Greenkeeper.

QUESTION: Mr Newton asked for confirmation of a rumour that the Yaragadee bridge is to be closed for upgrade and for how long.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley advised that the bridge would be closed half at a time, but this would entail an extra \$90,000 for traffic management. The Aboriginal Corporation

may be approached to request permission to install a low level crossing over the river bed to prevent this extra expenditure.

QUESTION: Mr Newton asked what would be an alternate route.

RESPONSE: Shire President Bagley said that they are trying to work this out.

Mr Jon Holmes requested that this take place after 1 July 2013.

QUESTION: Mrs Jill Holmes asked that if in an effort to improve communication could the Shire write a letter to all ratepayers re the plan and any proposed alternate routes.

RESPONSE: Yes, this will be done.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Officer thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting on 12 February 2014.

Signed: _____

Presiding Officer

Date: _____