



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday 9 February 2016



Common Acronyms Used in this Document

WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
AMP	Asset Management Plan
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
MRC&LC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

Table of Contents



1.	Official Opening
2.	Public Question Time
3.	Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence
4.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4.1	<u>Annual Electors Meeting held on 16 June 2015</u>
5.	2014/15 Annual Report
5.1	<u>Receipt of the 2014/15 Annual Report</u>
6.	General Business
7.	Closure

Shire of Merredin
Annual Electors Meeting
Tuesday 9 February 2016



1. Official Opening

The President welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6.02pm.

2. Public Question Time

Nil

3. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

3.1 Councillors:

Cr KA Hooper	Shire President
Cr BJ Anderson	
Cr LN Boehme	
Cr CA Blakers	
Cr JP Flockart	
Cr MD Willis	

3.2 Staff:

G Powell	CEO
R McCall	Deputy CEO
C Brown	EMCS
J Mitchell	EMDS
K Paust	EMES
V Green	EA to CEO
S Lowe	Media & Communications Officer

3.3 Members of the Gallery: J Anderson; D Morley; B Thompson; J Thompson; J Trunfio

3.4 Apologies: Cr ML Young; Jim & Bev Flockart

3.5 Approved Leave of Absence: Cr RM Creeves (CMRef 81708)

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 16 June 2015
Attachment 4.1A

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Anderson **Seconded:** Cr Blakers

- 81718** That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 16 June 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

A query had been received regarding the growing of Merrit trees project. The enquiry was referred to the Department of Parks and Wildlife. A number of community groups had been involved in the project, along with St Mary's school, however it appears there was little success in growing the trees from seed.

5. Annual Report 2014/15

- 5.1 Receipt of the Annual Report for 2014/15
Attachment 5.1A

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Flockart **Seconded:** Cr Blakers

- 81719** That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 be received, subject to amendments on page 9 and page 33.

CARRIED

Changes required

Page 9 - changing m² to km².

Page 33 - the fitting of deluge systems has not yet been done, these will be retrofitted by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services as budgets allow.

6. General Business

6.1 New logo

Comment on the new logo was negative with some expressing the view a logo should immediately identify what the town reflects, and without the explanatory Youtube video, it was felt the new logo didn't do that.

The President advised the new logo was specifically designed to be different to surrounding and other Wheatbelt Shires and allowed viewers their own interpretation of what it and the Shire represents to them.

6.2 Town appearance

Favourable comment was made on the cleaning up occurring in various areas of town, specifically around the bottom of trees on Bruce Rock Road and French Avenue which improves visibility and safety for motorists.

The President advised the works had been carried out by the Work for the Dole (WFTD) crew alongside the Shire's Parks and Gardens crew, which essentially doubled the workforce thus allowing additional works to be undertaken. The President further acknowledged the work done by the WFTD crew and suggested they be thanked for their efforts.

6.3 Signage

It was suggested that signage could be installed along the Highway depicting areas of interest in the town, such as Merredin Peak etc, to entice travellers to pull off the highway and visit those areas.

6.4 Queen Street road works

The quality of the recent works was questioned as water now runs to the middle of the road before it can access the culverts and drain away.

The elector was advised there are 2 spots on the east side of the road which hold water and those would be rectified so that the water could flow away properly.

6.5 Mountain biking and cycle tracks

It was suggested that as walk trails already exist there was the possibility that the current tracks could be extended and additional tracks established thus allowing visitors to run competitions etc, similar to those conducted in other areas of the State.

The President advised that the existing trails were designed for multi-use with the CEO adding that while there is merit in the proposal, the interest and action for establishing additional trails and running events should come from the community, as opposed to a Shire operation.

6.6 Additional revenue streams

It was queried that as grants and funding were becoming increasingly hard to obtain whether the Shire was investigating other options and commercial ventures to boost revenue streams.

The President advised that there are a number of options which have and will be investigated such as aquaculture and biomass/gas plants however consideration is needed on the level of capital investment and risk the Shire is willing to accept. Similarly, any new venture needs to be sustainable in the long term and provide a return on investment for the community. These investigations would be ongoing with the Shire recently obtaining partial funding for consultants from the Netherlands to visit Merredin to conduct a feasibility study into the development of a spirulina production facility in Merredin.

6.7 Displaying the Shire's history

It was advised that at the recent Sporting Heroes event several people were disappointed there were no permanent and public displays of the Shire's history.

The CEO advised that this has been a discussion point for many years and there were plenty of historical items which could be included in such a display. Any display however would require controlled public access and items would need to be stored in the correct way to ensure they are appropriately preserved.

He further added there was the potential to use areas within NMPS and there are different ways in which items could be displayed i.e. digitally rather than using space in rooms, however there is the common issue of being able to allocate Shire resources to such a project, without support and input from the community.

6.8 Hunts Dam

A suggestion was made that the Shire could clean up the area and install bbq's and swings for public use, thus allowing visitors to enjoy the site.

Councillor Flockart advised that as the area has been closed off for some time and is under the control of the Department of Parks & Wildlife, should the community wish to progress the matter they should approach the Department to ascertain any future plans for the area.

7. Closure

There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.40pm.