# **SHIRE OF MERREDIN**



# "Heart of the Wheatbelt"

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** 

18 October 2011

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# Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Merredin held in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 18 October 2011 commencing at 1.01pm.

#### **ATTENDANCE**:

Councillors: D Crook

B Anderson M Crees

D Hayes-Thompson

K Hooper T McFarlane D Morris M Morris W Wallace

Staff: G Powell Chief Executive Officer

E Arnold Executive Manager of Corporate and

**Community Services** 

J Mitchell Executive Manager of Development Services
L Wyatt Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

Mrs G Banks Justice of the Peace

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#### 1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting at 1.01pm. Mrs Gloria Banks JP, Evelyn Arnold, Julie Townrow, Pam Forbes, Maria Young, Lisa Fischer, Laura Galic (Merredin Mercury) and Colin Mowday were in attendance.

#### 2.0 SWEARING IN OF COUNCILLORS-ELECT

In accordance with Section 2.29 of the Local Government Act 1995, Mrs Gloria Banks, Justice of the Peace swore in Councilors-elect Bradley Anderson, Mark Crees, Dionne Hayes-Thompson, Ken Hooper, Tracey MacFarlane, and Debbie Morris.

# 3.0 **ELECTION OF SHIRE PRESIDENT**

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Shire President for a two year term. Nominations were received for Councillor Ken Hooper and Councillor Donna Crook. As there were no further nominations, an election was held and Councillor Crook was declared elected.

The President took the Chair and thanked Councillors for their support. Councillor Crook also acknowledged Councillor Hooper and thanked him for his many years of hard work in his capacity as Shire President.

#### 4.0 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT**

The President called for nominations for the position of Deputy Shire President. Nominations were received for Councillor Ken Hooper and Councillor Martin Morris. As there were no further nominations, and election was held and Councillor Martin Morris was declared elected.

Mrs Banks swore in Crs Crook and Morris to their respective positions.

The President thanked Mrs Banks for her assistance and words of encouragement.

Gloria Banks, Pam Forbes, Julie Townrow, Maria Young and Colin Mowday left the meeting at 1.25pm.

**30733** Moved: Cr Wallace Seconded: Cr M Morris

That Council suspend standing orders.

CARRIED 9/0

**30734** Moved: Cr Wallace Seconded: Cr McFarlane

That the meeting resume.

**CARRIED 9/0** 

#### 5.0 DRAW FOR THE POSITION AT THE COUNCIL TABLE

A draw was conducted by the CEO and the following positions were allocated: (Clockwise from Presidents chair):

Cr Crook, Cr M Morris, Cr Anderson, Cr Hooper, Cr Hayes Thompson, Cr D Morris, Cr Wallace, Cr McFarlane and Cr Crees.

#### 6.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

# 7.0 <u>DELECTION OF COMMITTEE DELEGATES, CURRENT DEPUTIES AND VARIOUS</u> <u>DELEGATES DRAW FOR THE POSITION AT THE COUNCIL TABLE</u>

#### 7.1 ESTABLISHED BY THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN

Listed below are the current Committees established by the Shire of Merredin.

Under the Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.10, a Councillor is entitled to be a member on any Committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum. Additionally, the Shire President is entitled to be a member on any Committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum.

In respect to Deputies, Council protocol appoints the Councillors who are not members to the Committee as Deputies so they are able to attend and participate in Committee meetings to ensure quorums.

Council should review these appointments to determine if they are required or if representation is required on other Committees.

#### **Audit Committee**

Current Members: Cr K Hooper, Cr M Crees, Cr M Young

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 5 Councillors Quorum: 3 Councillors

Purpose: To provide guidance and assistance to the Local

Government as to the carrying out of its functions in relation to audits carried out under Part 7 of the Act and as to the development of a process to be used to select and appoint a person to be an auditor and may provide guidance and assistance to the Local Government as to matters to be audited, the scope of audits, its functions under Part 6 of the Act and the carrying out of its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management. (Clause 16 Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996)

Meeting cycle:At least once annually to recommend the adoption of

the Annual Report

#### Merredin Shire Bush Fires Advisory Committee

Current Members: Cr Crees and Fire Control Officers

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 1 Councillor and Fire Control Officers

Quorum: At least 50% of members

Purpose: To enable the communication and coordination of Bush

Fire related matters within the Shire.

Meeting cycle: Ad hoc

#### Eric Hind Musical Scholarship Committee

Current Members: Cr Forbes, Councillor Townrow and 2

Community members.

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 1 Councillor and 2 Community Members

Quorum: 3 members

Purpose: To award Eric Hind Music Scholarship - Council Policy

3.17.

Meeting cycle: Once annually

#### Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee

Current Members: Cr K Hooper, Chief Executive Officer

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: Shire of Merredin Chief Executive Officer

(Chairman)

WA Police Officer In Charge Merredin Police

Station Deputy Chair) One other

Representative

Merredin Hospital - 1 Representative, Fire & Rescue Service - 1 Representative,

St. John Ambulance - 1 Representative,

SES - 2 Representatives,

Bush Fire Services - 1 Representative,

China Southern Flying School - 1 Representative,

Dept. for Child Protection - 1 Representative,

Australian Railroad Group - 1 Representative,

Eastern Wheatbelt Health - 1 Representative,

Main Roads WA - 1 Representative,

Disability Services Commission - 1 Representative,

Water Corporation - 1 Representative,

Dept. of Agriculture and Food - 1 Representative,

Mental Health Services - 1 Representative,

Department of Environment and Conservation - 1

Representative,

Synergy - 1 Representative,

Brookfields Rail - 1 Representative

Purpose:

- To assist the Local Emergency Co-ordinator to develop and maintain effective emergency management arrangements for the local area.
- Assist with the preparation of local emergency management plans and submit such plans to the Regional Emergency Management Committee for approval.
- Review local emergency management plans on a frequent basis.
- Assist with the preparation of emergency management operating procedures for application throughout the local area.
- Prepare an annual report on the activities of the Committee for submission to the Regional Emergency Management Committee.
- Provide assistance to the Local Emergency Coordinator and Lead Combat Authorities during emergency management operations.
- To carry out such other emergency management functions as directed by the Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Meeting cycle: Monthly

**30735** Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Resolution

That Council adopt the following committee members and delegates in accordance with Part 5 Division 2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

#### **Audit Committee**

Members: Cr McFarlane, Cr Morris, Cr Crook, Cr Hooper and Cr M

Morris.

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 5 Councillors
Quorum: 3 Councillors

Purpose: To provide guidance and assistance to the Local Government as to the carrying out of its functions in relation to audits carried out under Part 7 of the Act and as to the development of a process to be used to select and appoint a person to be an auditor and may provide guidance and assistance to the Local Government as to matters to be audited, the scope of audits, its functions under Part 6 of the Act and the carrying out of its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management. (Clause 16 Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996)

Meeting cycle:At least once annually to recommend the adoption of the Annual Report

#### Merredin Shire Bush Fires Advisory Committee

Members: Cr Crees

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 1 Councillor and Fire Control Officers

Quorum: At least 50% of members

Purpose: To enable the communication and coordination of

Bush Fire related matters within the Shire.

Meeting cycle:Ad hoc

# **Eric Hind Musical Scholarship Committee**

Members: Cr McFarlane

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 1 Councillor and 2 Community Members

Quorum: 3 members

Purpose: To award Eric Hind Music Scholarship - Council Policy

3.17.

Meeting cycle: Once annually

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#### Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee

Members: Chief Executive Officer and Cr Crook

**Deputies:** All other Councillors

Membership: Shire of Merredin Chief Executive Officer

(Chairman)

WA Police Officer In Charge Merredin Police Station Deputy

Chair) One other Representative

Merredin Hospital - 1 Representative,

Fire & Rescue Service - 1 Representative,

St. John Ambulance - 1 Representative,

SES - 2 Representatives,

Bush Fire Services - 1 Representative,

China Southern Flying School - 1 Representative,

Dept. for Child Protection - 1 Representative,

Australian Railroad Group - 1 Representative,

Eastern Wheatbelt Health - 1 Representative,

Main Roads WA - 1 Representative,

Disability Services Commission - 1 Representative,

Water Corporation - 1 Representative,

Dept. of Agriculture and Food - 1 Representative,

Mental Health Services - 1 Representative,

Department of Environment and Conservation - 1 Representative,

Synergy - 1 Representative,

Brookfields Rail - 1 Representative

Purpose: - To assist the Local Emergency Co-ordinator to develop and maintain effective emergency management arrangements for the local area.

- Assist with the preparation of local emergency management plans and submit such plans to the Regional Emergency Management Committee for approval.
- Review local emergency management plans on a frequent basis.
- Assist with the preparation of emergency management operating procedures for application throughout the local area.
- Prepare an annual report on the activities of the Committee for submission to the Regional Emergency Management Committee.
- Provide assistance to the Local Emergency Co-ordinator and Lead Combat Authorities during emergency management operations.
- To carry out such other emergency management functions as directed by the Regional Emergency Management Committee. Meeting cycle: Monthly

CARRIED 9/0
BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

#### 7.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFILIATED

Council appoints delegates to the Organisations and Committees listed below. Current members are listed.

Council should review these appointments to determine if they are required or if representation is required on other Committees.

Western Australian Local Government Association Great Eastern Country Zone

Cr K Hooper, Cr Crees

Deputies: Cr Wallace, Cr Townrow, Cr Young Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils

Cr K Hooper, Cr Crees

Deputies: Cr Wallace and Cr Townrow

**Regional Road Group** 

Cr Crees Deputy:

**Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre** 

Cr Morris

Merredin Sports Council

Cr A Carr

District Bush Fire Operations Advisory Committee

Cr Crees, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Executive Manager of Development Services

Merredin Land Conservation District Committee

Cr Crook

<u>District Zone Control Authority / Regional Advisory Committee</u>

Cr Crees

School Bus Advisory Committee

Cr Wallace

Merredin Hospital Local Health Advisory Group

Cr A Carr

**Development Assessment Panel** 

Cr Hooper Cr Crees

Deputies: Cr Cook Cr Forbes

<u>Collgar Community Trust</u>

No representation at this time.

**30736** Moved: Cr McFarlane Seconded: Cr Wallace

Resolution

That Council adopt the following committee members and delegates in accordance with Part 5 Division 2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Western Australian Local Government Association Great Eastern

**Country Zone** 

Cr Crook and Cr M Morris

Deputies: Cr Hooper and Cr Wallace

# Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils

Cr Crook and Cr M Morris

Deputies: Cr McFarlane and Cr Hayes-Thompson

**Regional Road Group** 

Cr Crees

**Deputy: Cr Anderson** 

**Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre** 

Cr M Morris

**Merredin Sports Council** 

Cr McFarlane

**District Bush Fire Operations Advisory Committee** 

Cr Crees, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Executive Manager of

**Development Services** 

**Merredin Land Conservation District Committee** 

Cr Crook

District Zone Control Authority / Regional Advisory Committee

Cr Crees

School Bus Advisory Committee

Cr Wallace

Deputy: Cr McFarlane

Merredin Hospital Local Health Advisory Group

Cr Crook

**Development Assessment Panel** 

Cr Hooper and Cr Crees

Deputies: Cr Crook and Cr McFarlane

<u>Collgar Community Trust</u> Cr Wallace and Cr M Morris.

CARRIED 9/0 BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

#### 7.2 GENERAL COMMUNITY

Council appoints delegates to the Organisations and Committees listed below. Current members are listed. Council should review these appointments to determine if they are required.

#### Merredin Museum and Historical Society

Cr Young

Merredin Residential College

Cr Crees

Merritville Retirement Village

Cr Young

**MADCAPS Child Care Centre** 

Cr A Carr

Merredin Reconciliation Forum

Cr Townrow

Doorways (TAFE)

Cr Forbes

Merredin Business Forum

Cr Wallace, Cr Townrow

**Wheatbelt Sports Council** 

Cr Wallace, Cr Crees

**Rural Water Council** 

Cr Wallace, Cr Crees

**Ryegrass Toxicity Committee** 

Cr Crees

Merredin Heritage Committee

Cr Crook Cr Morris

**30737** Moved: Cr Wallace

Seconded: Cr M Morris

Resolution

That Council adopt the following committee members and delegates in accordance with Part 5 Division 2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

**Merredin Museum and Historical Society** 

Cr D Morris

Merredin Residential College

Cr Crees

Merritville Retirement Village

Cr Anderson

**MADCAPS Child Care Centre** 

Cr Hayes-Thompson

**Doorways (TAFE)** 

Cr Hayes-Thompson

Wheatbelt Sports Council

Cr McFarlane and Cr Crook

**Rural Water Council** 

Cr Wallace and Cr Crees

**Ryegrass Toxicity Committee** 

Cr Anderson

Merredin Heritage Committee

Cr D Morris and Cr Crook

CARRIED 9/0 BY ABSOUTE MAJORITY

#### 8.0 <u>PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS</u>

Nil

#### 9.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

9.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 September 2011.

**30738** Moved: Cr Wallace Seconded: Cr M Morris

Resolution

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 September 2011 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 9/0

#### 10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

#### 11.0 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

# 12.0 <u>RECEIVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE</u> PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL

- 12.1 Harvest Rock Committee Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011
  Attachment 12.1A
- 12.2 Harvest Rock Committee Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 Attachment 12.2A

**30739** Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr D Morris

Resolution

That the Harvest Rock Committee Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 and Harvest Rock Committee Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be received.

John Mitchell entered the meeting at 2.12pm

#### 13.0 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

# 13.1 PLANNING APPLICATION 13-09; TEMPORARY ABLUTION BLOCK – LOT 24 BARRACK STREET, MERREDIN – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

Reporting Officer: John Mitchell

**Legislation:** Planning & Development Act 2005;

Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1

File Reference: A186
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

#### **Background**

In 2004 Council approved a proposed extension to the licensed area which included a beer garden and additional toilets as required by the Building Code of Australia and the Health (Public Building) Regulations 1992. A component of that town planning consent was that any additions to the property were to remain in character with the existing building.

At the October 2009 meeting the Council was advised of an urgent matter relating to the Commercial Hotel. The extract below was contained in the EMDS monthly report: -

"The alleged closure of the facility by the Environmental Health Officer is again untrue. As a result of the allegations and public rumour a meeting was held on 2 October 2009 with Mr Goodchild. As a result of that meeting correspondence was sent with the following extract:

"I advise that Council is prepared to grant planning consent to the placement of a prefabricated ablution block at the rear of the outdoor garden area to the Commercial Hotel with conditions relevant to footpaths and access to mobility standards i.e. 1:14 slopes, level entries and the like, placement valid for two years and that the ablution block must be replaced with a brick and iron roofed structure or the unit clad with brick and a false gabled roof by 31 October 2011 – all works complete.

The use of the ablution block will require the approval of the Department of Racing Gaming and Liquor and submission to their department is required prior to obtaining Councils' written consent. If the approval is obtained Council will provide the town planning consent with the above conditions.

With respect to the closure of the upstairs portion, like you I took this on face value and I carried out no history research. Recent events have obviously required that I read and investigate the reasons why. I have found no legal documentation to support the public rumoured or alleged closure by this local government. However the inspection today showed that the accommodation portion is in need of renovation and modernization. I suspect the issues were raised in the past and considered too hard to resolve and resulted in voluntary closure.

It is advised that subject to a Fire Engineers Safety report, as discussed, I am prepared to issue Town Planning consent for the use of the first storey rooms associated with the Hotel. The inspection determined the following: -"

The administration is awaiting the submission of plans for consideration."

#### Comment

A request to extend the consent of 2009 has been received from Mrs Kate Goodchild. At a meeting held in the Administration Building on 6 October 2011 the CEO agreed to recommend to Council that the outstanding planning consent requirement be extended until 30 June 2012. In addition Mrs Goodchild agreed to provide comment for the public. The email was received at 530pm Monday 11 October 2011.

The email received from the Goodchilds reads:

Dear Grea,

Firstly, I would like to thank both you and John for your time at our meeting last Thursday, 6th of October, 2011. I think the diplomacy skills you displayed are highly commendable and it is very apparent you have a very real empathy for Merredin, its residents, and its small business operators.

Further to our discussions on the day, I would like to formally ask for an extension on the upgrade on the ablution block. Our meeting served to highlight the importance of Michael keeping the lines of communication open with Shire officers, as it was at this point it was made clear that this was not a matter of aesthetics, but a provision of the building code in the shop area. Because of the logistics of now bricking in this unit, we now need to move most of the existing plumbing to accommodate footings for the brick work. Any suggestions or options that John or yourself could suggest of the time and cost saving nature would be greatly appreciated as quotes so far suggest another \$70k plus, in addition to the \$80k already spent to install the unit. Expensive undertaking! The one thing Michael and I have learnt from the ongoing trials and tribulations of trading in this premises is that nothing ever comes cheaply and rarely goes to plan. For example, when doing the beer garden toilets and landscaping we discovered that in its earlier days of being a laneway, someone had

actually built the laneway over a massive leech drain of some description! We prayed it was a large hole filled with gold bars or something equally exciting, but alas, it was not to be. Instead we thanked our lucky stars that no one had been hurt and found some more money for soil to fill the so and so up!

In addition to this, we would be very interested in finding out from Health officer Rebecca Bowler what, if any, other surfacing options would be compliant with the kitchen upgrade. Anywhere throughout these upgrades, wherever we can find a cost effective compliant alternative, it is a major bonus for cash flow and our sanity. The additional brainstorming where possible from officers involved with the upgrades would be so beneficial.

Further to my conversation with Johnny Whyte from RGL, Brendan Grylls office has kindly contacted liquor licensing in relation to the room upgrade and the feasibility of The Commercial applying for a tavern license. As wonderful as it might have been to restore the second floor to its former glory, an enforced upgrade will certainly be the death knock for our premises. It has proven itself to be a viable business with just the food and beverage operation, and our primary objective after four years of blood, sweat tears is to have a viable business to sell on. We have proven yourself to be mature and accountable licensee's who run a responsible liquor retail outlet so lets hope this finds us in good stead.

Thankyou once again for your time and good graces Greg. Will look forward to hearing how the meeting goes.

Yours sincerely, Kate

There are a number of options open to Council; Council can enforce the town planning condition; Council can remove the condition from the approval granted in 2009 or it may grant an extension of time to permit the applicant to satisfy the condition.

Should Council determine to enforce the condition within the existing timeframe this may force the applicant to take steps to close the business as they will be unable to immediately satisfy the condition. Should Council remove the condition it would set an unsatisfactory precedent which may prove difficult to defend when future applicants seek relief from planning condition put in place to ensure the character and amenity of the area. The third option, to grant an extension, is supported.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

The Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 and Local Planning Scheme No. 6 prohibit transportable buildings within the commercial and town centre areas of the town of Merredin.

### **Financial Implications**

The value of the application in 2009 was \$19,500.00. Application fees of \$135.00 were paid. Nil in this instance.

**30740** Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr McFarlane

Officer's Recommendation

That Council grant an extension of time expiring 30 June 2012 to comply with the conditions of PA 13-09 – Ablution Block to be enclosed in brick with a gabled galvanised iron roof or brick clad with a false gabled roof.

# 13.2 HEALTH ACT 1911 – 1979 (AS AMENDED) – ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF EFFLUENT

- LOT 12 MCCALLUM STREET, MUNTADGIN

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

**Reporting Officer:** John Mitchell

**Legislation:** Health Act 1911 – 1979; Section 108

File Reference: A8509
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

**Attachments:** Notice and Photos

#### **Background**

A complaint was received, via the Chief Executive Officer, from Water Corporation that a pipe to a leach-drain disposal system had been cut in the laneway behind Crossland Street Muntadgin. On investigation the land is owned by the State Government however the leach-drain disposal system in the vacant land services the Muntadgin Hotel.

Subsequently following frequent phone calls, site visits by Staff and correspondence requesting that the excavation and be cleaned up and a new system provided within Lot 1 & 2 Crossland Street to service the Hotel, a formal notice was issued. A copy of that notice is contained in **Attachment 13.2A**.

#### Comment

An inspection of the site was carried out on 23 August 2011 at approx 1545 hours by John Mitchell (Executive Manager of Development Services) and Rebecca Bowler (Environmental Health Officer). The inspection was conducted in response to concerns that the Water Corporation had in relation to an 'exposed leach drain' that was found during repairs to a mains water supply pipe. It was noted at the time that the exposed leach drain/trench contained sewage and various other waste water inclusions. It was also noted that the leach drain system was situated across a laneway and encroached onto Crown land (Lot 12 McCallum Street, Muntadgin). An appointment had been made with the owner to meet the inspecting officers onsite, she was not present during the inspection however sent a representative to discuss the matter with Shire officers.

A letter was issued on 8 September 2011 addressed to the owner regarding the rectification and restoration of the failed septic tank and leach drain system associated with the Muntadgin Hotel (Lot 1&2 Crossland Street, Muntadgin). A period of 30 days from the date of the correspondence was given to comply with the works order as it was deemed to pose a 'direct threat to public health and safety'. Failure to complete the required works would result in a formal notice being issued.

An on site inspection of was carried out by Mr George Ward (Shire Ranger) and Ms Rebecca Bowler (Environmental Health Officer) on 6 October 2011 at 1007hrs. The inspection showed that none of the previously requested works

had been completed from the letter dated 8 September 2011. Photographs were taken at the time of this inspection and will be made as an attachment to the formal section 108 Health Act 1911 notices which is to be drawn up as a result of failure to complete all necessary works. It was noted at the time of the inspection that the Hotel was closed for business that day.

Eight separate unsuccessful attempts to contact the owner (via telephone) have been made by the Shire's Environmental Health Officer between 6 and 11 October 2011.

On 11 October 2011, a formal Health Act 1911 section 108 (4)(a) notice was drawn up in order to rectify the failed leach drain system. A period of 21 days has been given to rectify the situation and complete all of the necessary works before it is advised that the Council will have to complete all necessary works and recover costs through a competent court of law. The right to appeal has been advised.

### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Section 108 of the Health Act 1911 is applicable. The procedures within that section have been followed.

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil to Council if the Section 108 Health Act notice is complied with. Failure to comply will result in a cost of approximately \$2,500 to Council which can be recouped through a competent Court of jurisdiction. There are no funds provided within budget for this purpose. However the legal expenses component of the Health and Building budgets could be used to defray the cost.

**30741** Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr McFarlane

Officer's Recommendation

That the actions of the Administration in issuing a formal notice to the owners of Lot 1 & 2 Crossland Street, Muntadgin relating to the removal of the public health issue of illegal sewage disposal at Lot 12 McCallum Street be endorsed.

# 13.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995 – DISUSED MATERIALS – LOT 3 POLLOCK

**AVENUE, MERREDIN** 

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

**Reporting Officer:** John Mitchell, Rebecca Bowler

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995; Section 3.25

File Reference: A2768
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Notice and Photos

#### **Background**

In October 2007 the owner of the above property was requested to commence removal of all disused materials including cans, car bodies, machinery components, drums, general waste — copper wire, steel, lawnmowers and the like from the property. Subsequently a formal notice was issued on 24 October 2011.

Since the initial request a considerable number of inspections have been undertaken resulting in the reissuing of the Section 3.25 Notice on 13 May 2011. A copy of the background notes relating to the matter have been attached for the purpose of seeking Council guidance. A copy of the notices issued in 2007 and 2011, and the photographs of the site are also contained in **Attachment 13.3A**.

#### Comment

The matter has become protracted and requires resolution.

The condition of the yards and the volume and nature of the disused materials comprise a high fire risk.

Despite repeated discussions and correspondence to the owner and the advice that legal action will commence the works are still outstanding and pose a substantial risk against the requirements of the Fire Order of the Shire of Merredin.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Section 3.25 of the Local Government Act 1995 permits the local government to issue a notice where there is a breach of Schedule 3.1 Division 1 of the Act (e.g. accumulation of disused materials).

The Act procedures that must be followed to issue the notice are contained in section 3.32 of the Act.

The procedures were adhered to by Staff.

Section 3.26(2) permits the local government to do anything that it considers necessary to achieve, as far as practicable, the purpose for which the notice was given.

# **Financial Implications**

The failure for the owner to comply can result in the local government carrying out the works of the notice and recouping the costs from a court of competent jurisdiction. Costs to perform the works are estimated at \$3,000.00.

30742 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

That Council resolve to enter Lot 3 Pollock Avenue, Merredin and remove the disused materials contained in the Section 3.25 Notice issued 13 May 2011 pursuant to Section 3.26(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and refer the matter to it's legal advisers for a claim for compensation from a Court of competent jurisdiction

# 13.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995 – LOT 25 GOLDFIELDS ROAD, HINES HILL; DISUSED MATERIALS ACCUMULATION

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

Reporting Officer: John Mitchell

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995, Section 3.25,

Schedule 3.1

File Reference: A9230
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Correspondence and Notice

#### **Background**

Acting on complaints received from neighbours and the local Police the Ranger and Executive Manager of Development Services inspected lot 25 Goldfields Road, Hines Hill on 6 December 2010.

The inspection determined that a Section 3.25 Local Government Act 1995 notice was required to be issued. A notice was issued on the 8 December 2010. A copy is contained in **Attachment 13.4A**.

#### Comment

The complaints were: -

- a) Neighbours concerned about the illegal camping occurring in the dilapidated garage left on the property.
- b) Accumulation of potentially stolen goods within the unsecured garage;
- c) Chemical Toilet compartment in an old half demolished house is used and unsanitary;
- d) Unlicensed vehicles on the block and their use on the road system;
- e) Components of relocated house stored on 44 gallon drums a danger to children who may wander through the unsecured property

An inspection of the site on 11 October 2011 has shown that the work notice has not been complied with.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Sections 3.25 and 3.32 of the Local Government Act 1995 are applicable. Schedule 3.1 of the Act provides the list of matters that can be addressed.

The procedures of the Act for issuing of the notice were followed.

Section 3.26(2) permits the local government to do anything that it considers necessary to achieve, as far as practicable, the purpose for which the notice was given.

# **Financial Implications**

If the owner refuses to comply Council can remove the disused materials and claim the costs from a court of competent jurisdiction.

**30743** Moved: Cr McFarlane Seconded: Cr M Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That Council resolve to enter Lot 25 Goldfields Road, Hines Hill and remove the disused materials contained in the Section 3.25 Notice issued 8 December 2010 pursuant to Section 3.26(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and refer the matter to it's legal advisors for a claim for compensation from a Court of competent jurisdiction.

# 13.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1995 – DISUSED MATERIALS – LOT 89 & 90 GAMENYA AVENUE, MERREDIN

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

**Reporting Officer:** John Mitchell, Rebecca Bowler

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995; Section 3.25

File Reference: A1563
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

**Attachments:** Notice and Photographs

#### **Background**

In October 2007 the owner of the above property was requested to commence removal of all disused materials including cans, car bodies, machinery components, drums, general waste — copper wire, steel, lawnmowers and the like from the property. Subsequently a formal notice was issued on 24 October 2011.

Since the initial request a considerable number of inspections have been undertaken resulting in the reissuing of the Section 3.25 Notice on 13 May 2011. A copy of the background notes relating to the matter have been attached for the purpose of seeking Council guidance. A copy of the notices issued in 2007 and 2011, and the photographs of the site are also contained in **Attachment 13.5A**.

#### Comment

The matter has become protracted and requires resolution. In addition the condition of the dwelling is such as to warrant further inspection. The 2011 inspections showed that the ablutions to the house are severely damaged and the ablutions are not functional.

The condition of the yards and the volume and nature of the disused materials comprise a high fire risk.

Despite repeated discussions and correspondence to the owner and the advice that legal action will commence the works are still outstanding and pose a substantial risk against the requirements of the Fire Order of the Shire of Merredin.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Section 3.25 of the Local Government Act 1995 permits the local government to issue a notice where there is a breach of Schedule 3.1 Division 1 of the Act (e.g. accumulation of disused materials).

The LG Act procedures that must be followed to issue the notice are contained in section 3.32 of the Act.

The procedures were adhered to by the Staff.

Section 3.26(2) permits the local government to do anything that it considers necessary to achieve, as far as practicable, the purpose for which the notice was given.

#### **Financial Implications**

The failure for the owner to comply can result in the local government carrying out the works of the notice and recouping the costs from a court of competent jurisdiction. Costs to perform the works are estimated at \$3,000.00.

30744 Moved: Cr McFarlane Seconded: Cr M Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That Council resolve to enter Lot 89 & 90 Gamenya Avenue, Merredin and remove the disused materials contained in the Section 3.25 Notice issued 13 May 2011 pursuant to Section 3.26(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 and refer the matter it's legal advisors for a claim for compensation from a Court of competent jurisdiction

# 13.6 LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME NO. 6 – HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION – LOT 14, 1 & 1131 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, NANGEENAN

**Reporting Department:** Development Services

Reporting Officer: John Mitchell

**Local Planning Scheme No. 6 –** 

**Homestead Policy** 

File Reference: A7000 Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: WA Planning Commission Application

#### **Background**

An application for comment (**Attachment 13.6A**) has been received from the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The proposal is to create two homestead lots from the existing farms and realign boundaries due to the rail line and existing remnant bush areas.

The draft Homestead Policy of the WAPC is still to be adopted.

#### Comment

The application is outside the parameters for approval using delegated authority; in particular the size of the homestead lots created and that two homestead lots are to be created. The application seeks to also address the remnant vegetation component of the land and annex this from the general farming area.

An inspection of the dwellings and land determined that previously the land was two farms and the dwellings are approximately 35 - 50 years of age. Modern farming technologies have resulted in the need for greater areas for broad-acre farming being required. Both dwellings are currently provided with a waste collection service as they are located on the Great Eastern Highway.

Boundary setbacks of 20m front and 10m side and rear must be achieved for the homestead lots. Power and water must be provided to the dwellings within the homestead lots. Both lots show setbacks above the minimums.

Previous requests for the WAPC to condition the approval to include waste disposal have been declined. It is not proposed to include any conditions of approval.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Local Planning Policy No. 2 Homesteads was adopted by Council on 20 September 2011.

The policy permits the Council to consider applications that are not within the terms of the policy as written.

The policy was designed to prevent larger (>10Ha) lots being created. This proposal minimises the homestead lot(s) created.

# **Financial Implications**

Nil.

**30745** Moved: Cr McFarlane

Seconded: Cr D Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That the Western Australian Planning Commission be advised that the application No. 144912, to establish two homestead lots from Location 14, 13 and 11314 (12) Great Eastern Highway Nangeenan is supported.

**CARRIED 9/0** 

John Mitchell left the meeting at 2.48pm.

# 14.0 **ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Nil recommendations to Council

Evelyn Arnold entered the meeting at 2.49pm

#### 15.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

15.1 LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID

**Reporting Department:** Finance & Administration Reporting Officer: Rose Jones – Accountant

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995 & Financial

Management Regulations

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: List of Accounts Paid

#### **Background**

The attached List of Account Paid (**Attachment 15.1A**) during the month under Delegated Authority is provided for Council's information.

### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

#### **Financial Implications**

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions. It should be noted that outstanding creditors total \$127,649.

**30746** Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr D Morris

Resolution

That Council receive the schedule of accounts as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, bank charges, Directly Debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$ 677,956.62 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account and cheques totaling \$7,662.31 from Council's Trust Account.

#### Note:

The period paid by EFT 4731 is 17/8/11 to 06/09/11 and the period paid by EFT 4799 is 07/09/11 to 21/09/11.

#### 15.2 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

**Reporting Department:** Finance and Administration

**Reporting Officer:** Evelyn Arnold

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Monthly Finance Report

# **Background**

The Monthly Finance Report is attached for Council's information. (Attachment 15.2A)

# **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

# **Financial Implications**

As outlined in Attachment 15.2A.

**30747** Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Wallace

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the Monthly Finance Report for September 2011.

#### 15.3 CENTRAL WHEATBELT VISITOR CENTRE – THE FUTURE

**Reporting Department:** Administration

**Reporting Officer:** CEO

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Report and Attendance List

#### **Background**

On 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 a workshop was held in Merredin for local government and tourism industry representatives to consider visitor servicing, marketing and product development of tourism in region covered by the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre.

A summary of the outcomes from the workshop together with a list of attendees is included at **Attachment 15.3A**.

#### Comment

Key drivers for the workshop were discussion at WEROC about tourism development generally and from a Shire of Merredin perspective to increase the regional contribution to the operating costs of the Visitor Centre.

Outcomes from the workshop are:

There was support for continuing with a hub visitor centre for the region at Merredin;

There was support for continuing with the current model but to formalize the communication between the CWVC Working Group members and the ROC they represent by ensuring recommendations and reports were placed on the ROC meeting agendas;

There was agreement that the Shire of Merredin undertake the running of the Centre including staff hire;

It was recommended that the current staff level be maintained;

It was acknowledged that greater resource sharing was needed ( see below); It was recommended that a review occur after 12 months of operating with new manager;

That partners look into funding for the CWVC from sources in addition to the Local Government contribution. (This to be discussed at ROC and sub regional tourism level. Suggestions given were differential rating, membership contributions either directly or via sub regional tourism associations.);

That WEROC consider developing a subregional tourism association;

That there was general acceptance that a greater contribution from the region was needed to assist the Shire of Merredin to support the regional visitor centre.

To summarise, the model and manner of operating the CWVC is supported although the ROC's may need to revise procedures to ensure that tourism issues are dealt with appropriately and with the necessary weight to ensure progress is made. The above will be formally drawn to the attention of the ROC's. Additionally the CWVC Committee can take a proactive role in facilitating the process perhaps through regular workshops and seminars.

Of particular importance to the Shire of Merredin is the financial aspect. As there was "general acceptance that a greater contribution ... was needed", Council needs to determine a "policy position" on the level of contribution it seeks from its ROC partners and attempt to gain acceptance of that position. As it is estimated by the Visitor Centre Manager that approximately 60% of the time (and it is inferred the cost) is attributable to regional activities, Council may wish to adopt a long term position that it wishes to recoup 60-70% of the cost with the increase being phased in over, say, a five year period. This would see the contribution rise from approximately \$18000 in 2010/12 to around \$120-\$140,000 (in 2011 dollars) over the five year period. A marketing budget should be developed as a separate cost.

# **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial Implications**

There are no short term implications but in the longer term there will be a substantial contribution to the costs incurred by the Shire of Merredin.

**30748** Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr

That the matter lay on the table until the November Council meeting.

#### MOTION LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

30749 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes the outcomes and supports the recommendations from the regional tourism workshop;
- 2. That the outcomes and recommendations be brought to the attention of the ROC's with the advice that Council supports them;
- 3. That Council adopts a position where it seeks to recoup 60-70% of the operating costs of the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre over a five year period commencing from the 2012/13 financial year and that this position be communicated to the ROC's.

Seconded: Cr Hayes Thompson

30750

Amendment

Moved: Cr Wallace

3. That Council adopts a position where it seeks to recoup 60% of the operating costs of the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre over a five year period commencing from the 2012/13 financial year and that this position be communicated to the ROC's.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED 9/0
THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED
9/0

# 15.4 MERREDIN RECREATION COMMUNITY AND LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT PLAN & POLICY - AMENDMENT

**Reporting Department:** Administration **Reporting Officer:** MRC&LC Manager

Legislation: File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

**Attachments:** Draft Policy and Management Plan

#### **Background**

The Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre was previously guided by the Advisory committee in the management of the MRC&LC Management Plan.

This committee was disbanded in June this year due to the fact that there was no need to meet regularly. It was determined that the functions of the now disbanded advisory Committee would be undertaken by the Sports Council.

#### Comment

There is now a need make changes in the Management Plan to delete "Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Advisory Committee" and substitute with the Merredin Sports Council.

The only other changes to this document (**Attachment 15.4A**) were that the meetings would be held when the need arises instead of monthly.

The MRC&LC Vandalism Policy also requires the wording amended in a similar fashion.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Nil. These are minor amendments only.

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil

**30751** Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Wallace

Resolution

That the draft policy and management plan be adopted subject to the following amendments:

Clause 10.1 being amended to read "Memberships maybe purchased throughout the year on a pro-rata basis."

Clause 12.1 being amended to read "The Centre shall be managed by the Shire of Merredin through the Centre Manager with the Sports Council fulfilling an advisory role.

Clauses 12.2-12.7 being deleted.

30752	Moved: Cr Crees	Seconded: Cr Anderson			
30/32					
	That the meeting be adj	ourned for afternoon tea at 3	.23pm.		
			CARRIED 9/0		
30753	Moved: Cr M Morris	Seconded: Cr D Morris			
	That the meeting reconvene at 3.38pm				
			CARRIED 9/0		

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2011

#### 15.5 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Reporting Department:** Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Correspondence from Australian Local

Government Association including submission

outline.

#### **Background**

In 2008 Australian Local Government commenced a campaign for recognition of Local Government in the Constitution. Significant progress has been made towards this and on 22 September a discussion paper was released by an Expert Panel seeking submissions from interested parties by 4 November 2011.

It is important the Expert Panel is able to gauge an understanding of the level of support for the recognition with over 400 Councils across Australia having currently passed resolutions in support.

#### Comment

Councils are asked to indicate support for recognition in general or for one or more of four specific options for change as outlined in **Attachment 15.6A** 

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil

**30754** Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr Crees

Officer's Recommendation

That Council states it's position of support as being recognition in general of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

#### 15.6 COUNCIL BI-ANNUAL DINNER FUNCTION / RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS

**Reporting Department:** Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

**Legislation:** Local Government Act 1995

File Reference: Policy 1.4, Policy 1.14

Attachments: Nil

#### **Background**

Council Policies 1.4 and 1.14 state:

#### 1.4 Retirement of Councillors – Gift & Function

Upon retirement of a Councillor, an official presentation and function shall be held to recognise the Councillor's service to the Council. A gift as follows shall be presented to the Councillor:

- A gift suitably inscribed with the Council crest (or another presentation of a similar value) and a presentation plaque.
- In the event a Councillor has also served as Shire President, an additional presentation, as considered appropriate by the Council.

Where possible, the function held to recognise retiring Councillors (whether they voluntarily retire or retire through not being re-elected), shall be held in conjunction with a function to welcome newly elected Councillors after the biannual election – refer to Policy 1.14.

#### 1.13 Council Bi-Annual Dinner Function

That Council hold a formal dinner function every two years following the local government election.

- To formally recognise the contributions of all Councillors to the Merredin Shire.
- To farewell and acknowledge retiring Councillors
- To welcome newly elected Councillors

Where possible, the function held to recognise retiring Councillors (whether they voluntarily retire or retire through not being re-elected), shall be held in conjunction with a function to welcome newly elected Councillors within 21 days of the bi-annual May election.

Once Council has set a date for the dinner function, the Chief Executive Officer is to arrange catering, bookings and final arrangements.

# **Financial Implications**

There is a provision in the 2011/2012 Budget at Account E041110 Refreshments and Receptions of \$20,000.00.

#### Comment

Reference in Policy 1.14 to where possible holding the dinner function within 21 days of the election may want to be reconsidered by Council in view of the seasonal demands following an October election (e.g. harvest, Christmas period etc).

The 2009 function was held on 17 November at the Administration Office in the form of a fully catered buffet. It is therefore proposed to hold a similar function following the November 2011 Council Meeting.

**30755** Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr M Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That the Council Bi-Annual Dinner Function, pursuant to Council Policies 1.4 and 1.14, be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> at Council Administration in the form of a fully catered function.

#### 15.7 COUNCIL CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES 2011

**Reporting Department:** Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO
Legislation: Nil
File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

#### **Background**

In 2010 the Council Administration Centre and Shire facilities closed for the period between Christmas and New Year. This is an extremely quiet period with public visitations being minimal. This is also the case with the Shire telephone service. It is understood that dealings with the Shire by the public are generally concluded before Christmas or left until after the New Year.

A number of staff have already indicated a desire to take annual leave or rostered days off (RDO) between Christmas and New Year. Consequently, this will affect service delivery if the Administration Centre and Shire facilities were to remain open.

On-call arrangements will be put in place prior to the Christmas period to ensure that emergencies can be responded to. Senior staff will be available on mobile phone and emergency contact details will be advertised.

There is three days between Christmas and New Year where the Administration Centre and Shire facilities could remain open, Wednesday 28 December, Thursday 29 December and Friday 30 December 2011. Details of the public holidays for Christmas and New Year are provided below:

Saturday 24/12/11	Sunday 25/12/11	Monday 26/12/10 PH	Tuesday 27/12/10 PH in lieu of 26/12	Wednesday 28/12/10 *	Thursday 29/12/10 *	Friday 30/12/10 *
Saturday 31/01/11	Sunday 01/01/12	Monday 02/01/12 PH in lieu of 01/01	Tuesday 03/01/12 OPEN	Wednesday 05/01/11 OPEN	Thursday 06/01/11 OPEN	Friday 07/01/12 OPEN

<sup>\*</sup>Days to be considered for closing

It is recommended that the Administration Centre and Shire facilities outlined below be closed to the public as follows:

- Administration Centre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- <u>Cummins Theatre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2</u> January 2012 inclusive.
- Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- Grandstand Bar Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2
   January 2012 inclusive pre-booked fixtures will be catered for.
- <u>Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre</u> <u>Closed Monday 26 December</u>
   2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- Merredin Regional Library Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.

All opening times for Christmas and New Year for the Council Administration Centre and community facilities will be widely advertised in advance.

# **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Nil.

#### **Financial Implications**

Staff will be required to take annual leave or accrued rostered days off. These costs are contained within the existing budget.

30756 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hooper
Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That Council endorse the Administration Centre and Shire facilities be closed to the public as follows:
- 2. Administration Centre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- 3. Cummins Theatre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- 4. Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- 5. Grandstand Bar Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive pre-booked fixtures will be catered for.
- 6. Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.
- 7. Merredin Regional Library Closed Monday 26 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 inclusive.

CARRIED 8/1

#### 15.8 CHRISTMAS FUNCTION 2011

**Reporting Department:** Administration

**Reporting Officer:** CEO

**Legislation:** Council Policy Manual

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

#### **Background**

Council Policy 1.13 states "That Council provide a joint Christmas Function for Councillors, Council staff and immediate families. The Chief Executive Officer is to place an item on the Council agenda no later than November of each year requesting Council to set a date and location for the function."

In previous years Christmas Functions have been held at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRC&LC) with between 100-120 adults and children attending.

The MRC&LC works well as a venue and the perception that it is a "neutral location" has resulted in the attendance of more staff in recent years, particularly from the Engineering Services Crew.

#### Comment

While the MRC&LC venue is seen as a popular option an alternative, is to hold a fully catered function at Cummins Theatre that includes a free movie or two for children. This option allows a "self-service" style of catering for food and drinks and gives all staff time to relax and socialise without feeling the pressure or expectation to wait on other staff as customers.

There would be no requirement for a Bar Manager or licensing issues as there would be no alcohol sales.

#### **Statutory/Policy Implications**

Council Policy 1.13 refers.

# **Financial Implications**

There is an allocation in the 2011/2012 Budget at Account E041110 - Refreshments and Receptions.

**30757** Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr D Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That the 2011 Christmas Function be held on Friday 16 December 2011 at the Merredin Recreation Community and Leisure Centre in the form of a fully catered buffet.

#### 16.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

#### 17.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

#### 18.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

**30758** Moved: Cr McFarlane Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

That due to poor ticket sales, Council cancel the Harvest Rock event

scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

**30759** Moved: Cr Morris Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

**Amendment** 

That Council adopt an in-principle position to cancel Harvest Rock

but the matter not be confirmed until Friday 21 October

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED 8/1

THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED

8/1

#### 19.0 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

#### 20.0 CLOSURE

Cr Crook declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm