
INDEX

1.0	OFFICIAL OPENING.....	4
2.0	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4
3.0	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
4.0	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	5
5.0	PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS	5
6.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
6.1	Previous Council Meeting	6
7.0	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION	6
8.0	MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC	6
9.0	RECEIVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL.....	7
9.1	Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Advisory Committee held on 14 May, 2007;	7
9.2	Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Management Committee held on 22 May, 2007;.....	7
9.3	Merredin Heritage Management Committee meeting held 24 May 2007;.....	7
9.4	Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Inaugural Meeting of the MOU Working Group held on 28 May 2007;	7
9.5	Business and Community Development Committee meeting held on 6 June 2007	7
9.6	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 11 June 2007.....	7
12.0	COMMUNITY SERVICES	23
12.1	Adoption of the Merredin Trails Plan	23
12.2	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Business Plan	25
12.3	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Fees And Charges	29
12.4	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Programs Plan	32
12.5	Royal Flying Doctor Service Fundraising Event.....	35
12.6	Merredin Netball Association Proposed Fundraising Event	38
12.7	Shire Of Merredin Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future 2007-2012.....	40
12.8	Manager of Community Services Report	44

MINUTES

10.0	COMMUNITY, HEALTH, BUILDING, TOWN PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....	48
10.1	Tender 10 – 2006/07 Sale of Lot 201 Bates St Merredin.....	48
10.2	Application for Planning Consent – Electricity Generation – Avon Location 19449, Robartson Rd, - Chris Raymond For Namarkkon.....	49
10.3	Western Australian Planning Commission – Application for Subdivision Avon Location 19449, Purpose – Electricity Generation.....	53
10.4	Western Australian Planning Commission – Application 134621, Lot 13086 Gamenya Avenue, Merredin, Subdivision	55
10.5	Application for Planning Consent – Recycling Depot, Lot 59, 60 And 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin, submitted by Peter Dalton for Self.....	57
10.6	Health Act 1911 – 1979, as amended, Section 144; Conversion Outbuilding to Residence, Lot 15 Booran South Road, Gavin Townsend	60
10.7	Building Statistics Report.....	63
10.8	Wa Country Health Service – Transport Proposal	65
10.9	Lease L5300 – Former Merredin Motorcycle Club Portion Lot 1504, Barrack Street, Merredin.....	67
11.0	ENGINEERING SERVICES	69
11.1	Manager Of Works – Monthly Report	69
11.2	Changeover Six (6) Tonne Truck (Emoleum Works Contract)	71
11.3	Water Truck Tender No 14 – 06/07	73
13.0	FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.....	75
13.1	Chief Executive Officer’s Report.....	75
13.2	Country Medical Foundation – Request for Additional Funds	77
13.3	Governance for Wheatbelt Drainage – Wheatbelt Drainage Council – Drainage Principles	79
13.4	Request for Financial Assistance Merredin Senior High School – Chaplaincy Program.	82
13.5	Upgrade of Merredin Hospital – Funding Cut	84
13.6	Monthly Finance Report.....	86
13.7	List of Accounts Paid	87
14.0	MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	88
15.0	QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	88
16.0	URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION .	88
16.1	Shire Administration Offices – Additional Signage.....	88
16.2	Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers	90
16.3	Re-Location Expenses for Regional Manager Library Services	93
16.4	Council Representation	95

17.0	MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	97
17.3	Relieving Chief Executive Officer – Oct/Nov 2007	97
17.2	Remuneration of Doctors	97
17.1	Memorandum of Understanding – Shire of Merredin and WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt Region – Provision of Doctor Services	98
18.0	CLOSURE	98

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the Merredin Shire Council held in the Council Chambers, Cnr King/Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 19 June 2007 at 1.00pm.

ATTENDANCE: Cr KA Hooper – Shire President
Cr RM Crees – Deputy Shire President
Crs JP Townrow; WR Wallace; G Astbury; J Jones, N Hooper, J Simmonds, M Morris & D Morley.

Messrs FB Ludovico, Chief Executive Officer;
J Mitchell, Manager of Development Services;
J Garrett, Manager of Works;
E Hooper, Manager of Finance and Administration;
S Price, Manager of Community Services; and
AM Peters, Personal Assistant
D Morris, Community & Economic Development Officer
T Martin, Recreation Centre Manager

Attila Menschelyi, Regional Manager–Wheatbelt , Department of Housing and Works.

Phillip Hastings

1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 1.01pm.

2.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with section 5.24 of the Local Government Act 1995, a 15 minute public question time is made available to allow members of the public the opportunity of questioning Council on matters concerning them.

3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Stephen Marley.

Cr Simmonds requested leave of absence for the 17 July 2007 Council meeting.

28948

Moved Cr N Hooper sec Cr Morris

That Council approve leave of absence for Cr Simmonds for the 17 July 2007 meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

4.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr Townrow declared a Financial Interest in Item 10.4.
Cr Morley declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 10.5.

5.0 PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Attila Menschelyi, Regional Manager – Wheatbelt, Department of Housing and Works addressed Council and advised the following:

Department of Housing and Works have recently:

- completed the building of three units in Woolgar Avenue and two units in Endersbee Street.
- Spadacini's of Northam have been awarded tenders to build four, two bedroom units at Endersbee Street and a five bedroom unit at Caw Street
- spent \$100,000 refurbishing existing dwellings.

Mr Menschelyi advised that construction costs are expensive and current tender quotes have been 30% to 50% over budget. There is a lack of available builders within the Wheatbelt to tender for building projects.

There are 16 applicants currently on the waiting list for housing in Merredin.

Joint venture housing is a possibility with Council forming a partnership with Department of Housing and Works.

Joint Venture housing would be built on land provided by the Shire of Merredin by Department of Housing & Works and managed by the Shire of Merredin. (eg Merrittville and Cummings Street units).

For units to be built in partnership with the Department of Housing and Works the Shire of Merredin would be required to contribute approximately \$10,000 per bedroom which could also be in the form of an in kind contribution..

Shire of Merredin would be welcome to tender for the building of units with the Shire.

In reference to the expansion of Merrittville all applicants would have to meet Department of Housing and Works criteria to be eligible for a placement at Merrittville. There income is to be below \$580.00 per week with asset value no higher that \$80,000.

GROH (formerly GEHA) are taking up all units in Golf Road which will be available by end of July 2007.

Finally, Mr Menschelyi advised the following monies would be spent on public works in Merredin in the 2007/2008 budget.

- \$150,000 to be spent at Merredin Senior Highschool on the basketball/netball and tennis courts;
- \$90,000 for painting at South Merredin Primary School; and
- \$80,000 for North Merredin Primary School for maintenance.

S Price left the meeting at 1.32pm.

The President that Mr Attila Menschelyi for his attendance.

Mr Attila Menschelyi left the meeting at 1.33pm.

S Price and T Martin entered the meeting at 1.34pm.

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on the 15 May 2007.

28949

Moved Cr Morley sec Cr Townrow

That the minutes of Council Meeting held on 15 May 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 10/0

Debbie Morris left the meeting at 1.35pm.

7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.0 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

9.0 RECEIVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD SINCE
THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL

- 9.1 Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Advisory Committee held on 14 May, 2007;
- 9.2 Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Management Committee held on 22 May, 2007;
- 9.3 Merredin Heritage Management Committee meeting held 24 May 2007;
- 9.4 Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Inaugural Meeting of the MOU Working Group held on 28 May 2007;
- 9.5 Business and Community Development Committee meeting held on 6 June 2007.
- 9.6 Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 11 June 2007.
-

28950

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Astbury

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the minutes of Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Advisory Committee held on 14 May, 2007; Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Management Committee held on 22 May, 2007; Merredin Heritage Management Committee meeting held 24 May 2007; Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Inaugural Meeting of the MOU Working Group held on 28 May 2007; Business and Community Development Committee meeting held on 6 June 2007 and Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 11 June 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

9.1 Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre **Advisory** Committee held on Monday 14 May 2007.

At Councils 15 May 2007 meeting Council considered the following recommendation from the MRC&LC Advisory Committee:

9.1 Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre **ADVISORY** Committee held on Monday 14 May 2007.

Moved Cr Morris, Sec J. Jefferys

The committee recommends to Council that the Grand Opening for the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre is held in conjunction with the Merredin Agricultural Show on 20th October 2007.

CARRIED 4/2

COUNCIL MOTION 28913 (15 May 2007):

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr N Hooper

That Federal and State parliamentary members, sponsors and associated dignitaries be invited to attend the Recreation Centre on Friday 19th for a formal cocktail party with the official opening to be held in conjunction with the Merredin Agricultural Show late afternoon on the 20 October, 2007.

CARRIED 6/4

New motion put forward to Council at its 19 June 2007 meeting from the MRC&LC Management Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2007:

9.2 Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre **MANAGEMENT** Committee held on 22 May, 2007;

Moved Cr Wallace, Sec Cr Morris

That the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Management Committee recommends to Council that the exclusive sponsors function originally programmed for the 19th October 2007 is conducted at an earlier time, prior to the Centre being available to the public. The date for the event is to be confirmed upon completion of building works.

CARRIED

Council will be required to revoke Motion 28913 in order to consider this recommendation.

28951

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Wallace

Cr Wallace, Morris Jones and Simmonds supported the revoking of this motion.

1. That Council revoke Resolution 28913

28913

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr N Hooper

That Federal and State parliamentary members, sponsors and associated dignitaries be invited to attend the Recreation Centre on Friday 19th for a formal cocktail party with the official opening to be held in conjunction with the Merredin Agricultural Show late afternoon on the 20 October, 2007.

CARRIED 6/4

**CARRIED 9/1
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

28952

Moved Cr Wallace, Sec Cr Morris

That the Merredin Regional Community & Leisure Centre Management Committee recommends to Council that the exclusive sponsors function originally programmed for the 19th October 2007 is conducted at an earlier time, prior to the Centre being available to the public. The date for the event is to be 26th July 2007.

CARRIED 9/1

- 9.3 Merredin Heritage Management Committee meeting held 24 May 2007;

7.0 OFFICER'S REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE

7.2 Correspondence In

- Letter from Merredin and Districts Visitor Centre regarding the 30th Anniversary of the Merredin Museum and Historical Society.

Moved Ms Pam Masters

Sec Cr Townrow

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council support the Community Services Team initiating and coordinating the Heritage Week activities between Tuesday 1st and Sunday 6th April 2008 in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Merredin Museum and Historical Society.

CARRIED 3/0

8.4 2007/08 BUDGET

That Council endorse the heritage budget as listed below and allocate \$30,500 in the 2007/08 Shire budget with provision to include the cost of repairs to the Railway Museum platform, subject to the report from the structural engineer.

<i>Construction of bridge over drain on Great Eastern Highway at Pioneer Park</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete decorative fencing on Great Eastern Highway at Military Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete the hotmix platform at the entrance to the Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Painting of train in Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Security/sensor lighting at Railway and Military Museums</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>Air conditioning of main office area at Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 1000</i>
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$15500</i>
MAINTENANCE	
<i>Repair guttering on northern side of Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>General maintenance – Railway and Military Museums, including safety audit and repairs of electrical wiring and lights</i>	<i>\$10000</i>
TOTAL	\$30500

CARRIED 3/0

That Council allocate funds in the 2007/08 Shire budget for insulation batts in the fly tower at Cummins Theatre to be installed in conjunction with other works at the Theatre.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS**9.1. No 4 Pumping Station**

That the Chair of the Merredin Heritage Management Committee attend the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

That Council endorse Ms Pam Masters, Visitor Centre Manager and Mrs Debbie Morris, Community and Economic Development Project Officer attending the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

That Council support in principle that the No 4 Pumping Station be considered as a potential site of a proposed Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers.

9.2 Military Museum Representatives

That Council endorse Mr Rob Endersbee as representative and Mr Phil Hastings as the proxy for the Merredin Military Museum on the Merredin Heritage Management Committee, effective immediately.

LOST 2/8

7.0 OFFICER'S REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE**7.2 Correspondence In**

- Letter from Merredin and Districts Visitor Centre regarding the 30th Anniversary of the Merredin Museum and Historical Society.

Moved Ms Pam Masters

Sec Cr Townrow

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council support the Community Services Team initiating and coordinating the Heritage Week activities between Tuesday 1st and Sunday 6th April 2008 in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Merredin Museum and Historical Society.

CARRIED 3/0

28953

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris

That Council support the Community Services Team initiating and coordinating the Heritage Week activities between Tuesday 1st and Sunday 6th April 2008 in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Merredin Museum and Historical Society.

CARRIED 10/0

Moved Ms Pam Masters

Sec Cr Townrow

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council allocate \$5000 in the 2007/08 Shire budget towards the marketing, publicity and events during the Heritage Week 1st to 6th April 2008.

CARRIED 3/0

28954

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris

That Council allocate \$5000 in the draft 2007/08 Shire budget towards the marketing, publicity and events during the Heritage Week 1st to 6th April 2008.

CARRIED 9/1

8.4 2007/08 BUDGET

Moved Ms Pam Masters

Sec Cr Townrow

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse the heritage budget as listed below and allocate \$30,500 in the draft 2007/08 Shire budget with provision to include the cost of repairs to the Railway Museum platform, subject to the report from the structural engineer.

<i>Construction of bridge over drain on Great Eastern Highway at Pioneer Park</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete decorative fencing on Great Eastern Highway at Military Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete the hotmix platform at the entrance to the Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Painting of train in Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Security/sensor lighting at Railway and Military Museums</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>Air conditioning of main office area at Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 1000</i>
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$15500</i>
MAINTENANCE	
<i>Repair guttering on northern side of Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>General maintenance – Railway and Military Museums, including safety audit and repairs of electrical wiring and lights</i>	<i>\$10000</i>
TOTAL	\$30500

CARRIED 3/0**28955**

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Townrow

That Council endorse the heritage budget as listed below and allocate \$30,500 in the draft 2007/08 Shire budget with provision to include the cost of repairs to the Railway Museum platform, subject to the report from the structural engineer.

<i>Construction of bridge over drain on Great Eastern Highway at Pioneer Park</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete decorative fencing on Great Eastern Highway at Military Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Complete the hotmix platform at the entrance to the Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 3000</i>
<i>Painting of train in Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>Security/sensor lighting at Railway and Military Museums</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>Air conditioning of main office area at Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 1000</i>
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>\$15500</i>
MAINTENANCE	
<i>Repair guttering on northern side of Railway Museum</i>	<i>\$ 5000</i>
<i>General maintenance – Railway and Military Museums, including safety audit and repairs of electrical wiring and lights</i>	<i>\$10000</i>
TOTAL	\$30500

CARRIED 9.1

Moved Ms Pam Masters Sec Cr Townrow
That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council allocate funds in the 2007/08 Shire budget for insulation batts in the fly tower at Cummins Theatre to be installed in conjunction with other works at the Theatre.

CARRIED 3/0

28956

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris
That Council allocate funds in the 2007/08 Shire budget for insulation in the fly tower at Cummins Theatre to be installed in conjunction with other works at the Theatre.

CARRIED 6/4

28957

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris
That funds for the repair of the fly tower be sought from external sources as well as a proportion of the funds being allocated from the 2007/2008 Shire budget.

CARRIED 9/1

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 No 4 Pumping Station

Moved Cr Townrow Sec Ms Pam Masters
That the Chair of the Merredin Heritage Management Committee attend the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse Ms Pam Masters, Visitor Centre Manager and Mrs Debbie Morris, Community and Economic Development Project Officer attending the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

CARRIED 3/0

Moved Ms Pam Masters Sec Cr Townrow
That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommends to Council that Council support in principle that the No 4 Pumping Station be considered as a potential site of a proposed Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers.

CARRIED 3/0

Moved Cr N Hooper sec Cr Townrow

That the Chair of the Merredin Heritage Management Committee attend the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

That Council endorse Ms Pam Masters, Visitor Centre Manager and Mrs Debbie Morris, Community and Economic Development Project Officer attending the meeting with the National Trust representatives for the proposed Centre of Excellence.

This meeting with representatives from the National Trust occurred on Friday 15 June 2007 prior to the June 2007 Council meeting. Ms Pam Masters was unable to attend this meeting.

28958

Moved Cr N Hooper sec Cr Townrow

That Council support in principle that the No 4 Pumping Station be considered as a potential site of a proposed Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers.

CARRIED 10/0

Refer Agenda Item 16.2 of these Minutes.

9.2 Military Museum Representatives

Moved Cr Townrow

Sec Ms Pam Masters

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse Mr Rob Endersbee as representative and Mr Phil Hastings as the proxy for the Merredin Military Museum on the Merredin Heritage Management Committee, effective immediately.

28959

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Wallace

That the Merredin Heritage Management Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse Mr Rob Endersbee as representative and Mr Phil Hastings as the proxy for the Merredin Military Museum on the Merredin Heritage Management Committee, effective immediately.

CARRIED 10/0

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

9.4 Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Inaugural Meeting of the MOU Working Group held on 28 May 2007;

Nil Recommendations.

T Martin left the meeting at 2.17pm.

- 9.5 Business and Community Development Committee meeting held on 6 June 2007.

6.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

6.1 **Refer to Action Sheet Items**

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Hooper

That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council consider allocating \$20,000 (including GST) as per a quotation from Western Power for lighting of the eastern end of East Barrack Street industrial area in the 2007/08 budget.

CARRIED 4/0

28960

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Astbury

That Council consider allocating \$20,000 (including GST) as per a quotation from Western Power for lighting of the eastern end of East Barrack Street industrial area in the 2007/08 budget.

CARRIED 7/3

T Martin entered the meeting at 2.20pm.

7.0 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

7.1 **Carrington Way Update**

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Hooper

That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council:

1. *Endorse the completion of a Geotechnical Site Investigation, a Site/Feature Survey and a Pre-calculation Plan for Carrington Way subdivision; in addition to*
2. *endorsing completion of Geotechnical Site Investigation for Lot 1335 Whitfield Way, UCL Lots 710 and 715, Reserve 36065, Reserve 28563, Reserve 17767 and Reserve 44697, with costs allocated from Land Development Reserve up to a maximum value of \$25,000.00.*

CARRIED 4/0

- 28961** Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Townrow
That Council endorse the completion of a Geotechnical Site Investigation, a Site/Feature Survey and a Pre-calculation Plan for Carrington Way subdivision with funding up to a maximum value of \$25,000 from the Land Development Reserve fund.

CARRIED 9/1

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

REASON: The minutes of the Business & Community Development Committee meeting did not record the committee resolution correctly.

- 28962** Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Morris
That Council endorse completion of Geotechnical Site Investigation for Lot 1335 Whitfield Way, UCL Lots 710 and 715, Reserve 36065, Reserve 28563, Reserve 17767 and Reserve 44697 by negotiating the best price, with costs to be allocated from Land Development Reserve.

CARRIED 9/1

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

REASON: The minutes of the Business & Community Development Committee meeting did not record the committee resolution correctly.

7.3 Groundwater Algae Trials - MSHS Partnership

Moved Cr Hooper sec Cr Townrow
That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council allocate an amount of \$3000.00 in the 2007 – 2008 budget for the implementation of groundwater algae culture trials, at Merredin Senior High School.

CARRIED 3/0

Moved Cr Hooper sec Cr Townrow
That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that the \$3000.00 for the implementation of groundwater algae culture trials be allocated from the Saline Water Initiatives Reserve.

ENBLOC

- 28963** Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Jones
That Council allocate an amount of \$3000.00 in the 2007 – 2008 budget for the implementation of groundwater algae culture trials, at Merredin Senior High School.

CARRIED 10/0

- 28964** Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr N Hooper
That the \$3000.00 for the implementation of groundwater algae culture trials be allocated from the Saline Water Initiatives Reserve.

CARRIED 10/0

7.4 Land Development

Moved Cr Townrow Sec Cr N Hooper

1. *That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council accept Mr Graeme Sexton's tender of \$10,500 for Tender 13 -06/07 Sale of Lot 82 Hawker Way, Merredin with the funds being allocated to Land Development Reserve.*
2. *That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse auctioning of Lot 368 Todd Street, Merredin and Lot 147 Nolan Way, Merredin with the reserve price set as per valuations in conjunction with the auction of Lot 258, 54 Bates Street, Merredin.*

ENBLOC

CARRIED 3/0

Moved Cr Townrow

1. *That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council accept Mr Graeme Sexton's tender of \$10,500 for Tender 13 -06/07 Sale of Lot 82 Hawker Way, Merredin with the funds being allocated to Land Development Reserve.*
2. *That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Council endorse auctioning of Lot 368 Todd Street, Merredin and Lot 147 Nolan Way, Merredin with the reserve price set as per valuations in conjunction with the auction of Lot 258, 54 Bates Street, Merredin.*

LAPSED

28965

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr N Hooper

1. *That Council accept Mr Graeme Sexton's tender of \$10,500 for Tender 13 -06/07 Sale of Lot 82 Hawker Way, Merredin with the funds being allocated to Land Development Reserve.*

CARRIED 10/0

28966

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris

1. *That Council endorse auctioning of Lot 147 Nolan Way, Merredin with the reserve price set as per valuation in conjunction with the auction of Lot 258, 54 Bates Street, Merredin.*
2. *That Council consider utilising Lot 368 Todd Street, Merredin for proposed single person joint venture housing project with Department of Housing and Works.*

CARRIED 10/0

REASON: Following presentation from Department of Housing and Works Council decided to consider utilising Shire land for joint venture housing.

7.5 Water Distillation

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Hooper

1. *That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that Shire of Merredin guarantee financial support of the ground water distillation project up to a figure of \$10,000, allocated from the Saline Water Initiatives Reserve.*
2. *The Water Working Group progress the ground water distillation project to a point where costings and viability are established, and options are brought back for Council consideration.*

CARRIED 4/0

28967

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Hooper

1. *That the Shire of Merredin guarantee financial support of the ground water distillation project up to a figure of \$10,000, allocated from the Saline Water Initiatives Reserve.*
2. *That the Water Working Group progress the ground water distillation project to a point where costings and viability are established, and options are brought back for Council consideration.*

CARRIED 10/0

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

7.11 Motorcross Track

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Morris

That the Business and Community Development Committee recommend to Council that a proactive joint-approach with Police be pursued with regard to formulating a press release clarifying both parties' stance on unlawful motocross activities, and an invitation be extended to interested parties to make contact regarding this issue.

CARRIED 4/0

28968

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Townrow

That Council take a proactive joint-approach with Police and pursue formulating a press release clarifying both parties' stance on unlawful motocross activities, and an invitation be extended to interested parties to make contact regarding this issue.

CARRIED 10/0

-
- 9.6 Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 11 June 2007.

8.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Moved Cr M. Morris, sec E. Carlson

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre, including all fenced off areas and paved areas surrounding the complex is designated a smoke-free environment.

CARRIED 5/0

28969

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Wallace

That Council endorse the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre, including all fenced off areas and paved areas surrounding the complex being designated as a smoke-free environment.

CARRIED 9/1

Moved Cr M. Morris, sec Cr M. Crees

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommend to Council to adopt the MRC&LC Code of Behaviour and implement it upon opening the Centre.

CARRIED 5/0

28970

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Morris

That Council adopt the MRC&LC Code of Behaviour and implement it upon opening the Centre.

CARRIED 10/0

10.0 CORPORATE IDENTITY / MRC&LC BRAND

Moved Cr M. Morris, sec Cr M. Crees

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommend to Council to change the brand/logo for the MRC&LC to the artwork supplied by the company Filthy Bush Surfwear.

CARRIED 5/0

28971

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Morris

That Council change the brand/logo for the MRC&LC to the artwork supplied by the company Filthy Bush Surfwear.

CARRIED 10/0

12.0 CENTRE OPENING HOURS / STAFF AVAILABILITY**12.1 Opening Hours**

Moved Cr M. Morris, sec Cr M. Crees

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the administrative hours of the MRC&LC are advertised for between 8:30am through to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, and that the Centre is opened outside these hours in accordance with bookings and the Centre's program timetable.

CARRIED 5/0

28972

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Crees

That Council agrees that the administrative hours of the MRC&LC are advertised for between 8:30am through to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, and that the Centre is opened outside these hours in accordance with bookings and the Centre's program timetable.

CARRIED 10/0

12.2 Staff Availability

Moved Cr M. Crees, sec Cr M. Morris

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the MRC&LC is staffed during the hours of operation for a period of two months, at which point this request will be reviewed.

CARRIED 4/1

28973

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Morley

That Council staff the MRC&LC during the hours of operation for a period of two months, at which point this request will be reviewed.

CARRIED 9/1

13.0 CLUBS RUNNING ASSOCIATED SOCIAL SPORTS

Moved E. Carlson, sec D. Sutherland

That the MRC&LC Advisory Committee recommend to Council that clubs/associations be charged a court hire fee for social competitions organised by the club/association, outside the standard operations of the respective club/association.

CARRIED 5/0

28974

Moved Cr Morley sec Cr Crees

That Council charge clubs/associations a playing surfaces hire fee for social competitions organised by the club/association, outside the standard operations of the respective club/association.

CARRIED 9/1

MINUTES

The following items were brought forward due to the presence of the Manager of Community Services.

12.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1 ADOPTION OF THE MERREDIN TRAILS PLAN

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Patricia Martin, Recreation Centre Manager
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

At its Ordinary Meeting on 16th August 2005 (**CMRef 28041**), Council agreed to support a funding application for the Merredin Trails Plan and the Merredin Physical Activity Plan proposal through an application to the Physical Activity Taskforce.

Upon the success of this funding application and the completion of the Merredin Physical Activity Plan, the Shire of Merredin contracted Michael Tooby and Associates to commence preparing the Merredin Trails Plan on 22nd February 2007. Michael Tooby and Associates previously developed the Merredin Townscape Improvement Plan and had background information in regard to Merredin and its potential for interpretative trails.

A comprehensive community consultation process was conducted on 14th March 2007 to assess attitudes, barriers and ideas related to Merredin's existing and potential trail routes. The draft Merredin Trails Plan was distributed throughout the community for public comment/feedback between the dates of 12th April 2007, to 23rd April 2007. The final plan was delivered on 21st May 2007.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

The Physical Activity Taskforce granted \$13,000 (ex GST) to the Shire of Merredin to develop both the Merredin Physical Activity Plan and the Merredin Trails Plan.

The Be-Active Coordinator was contracted to develop the Merredin Physical Activity Plan for the agreed amount of \$4000 (ex GST). Michael Tooby and Associates were contracted to develop the Merredin Trails Plan for the agreed amount of \$9000 (ex GST).

Comments:

The Merredin Trails Plan has been compiled and is provided under separate cover at **Attachment 12.1A**. The key contents of the Merredin Trails Plan include:

- Introduction and Background - Page 1
- Executive Summary - Page 3
- Community Input and Support - Page 4
- Potential Users and Their Needs - Page 5
- Trail Planning - Page 7
- Trail Construction - Page 10
- Interpretation - Page 12
- Proposed Trail Routes and Interpretation - Page 16
- Contingency Plan - Page 25
- Trail Route Drawings - Page 26

The draft Merredin Trails plan was previously available for public comment. It is not considered necessary to seek further community input on the final plan because comprehensive community consultation was conducted during the development of the plan; and upon submission of the draft plan. It is consequently recommended that Council adopt the plan as provided.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Merredin Trails Plan.

28975

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Townrow

That Council adopt the Merredin Trails Plan.

CARRIED 9/1

**12.2 MERREDIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY AND LEISURE CENTRE
BUSINESS PLAN**

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Patricia Martin, Recreation Centre Manager
Legislation:
File Number:

Background:

The Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRC&LC) Business Plan has been researched and developed to depict the nature of the facility as a Local Government enterprise.

On 27 March 2007, the draft MRC&LC Business Plan was considered at the MRC&LC Advisory Committee and amendments were made.

At its November 2006 (CMRef 28700), Council resolved to adopt the following vision and mission statement for the MRC&LC:

Vision

To create a healthy and active community by building strong relationships with key stakeholders and providing quality community, recreation and leisure services for the region.

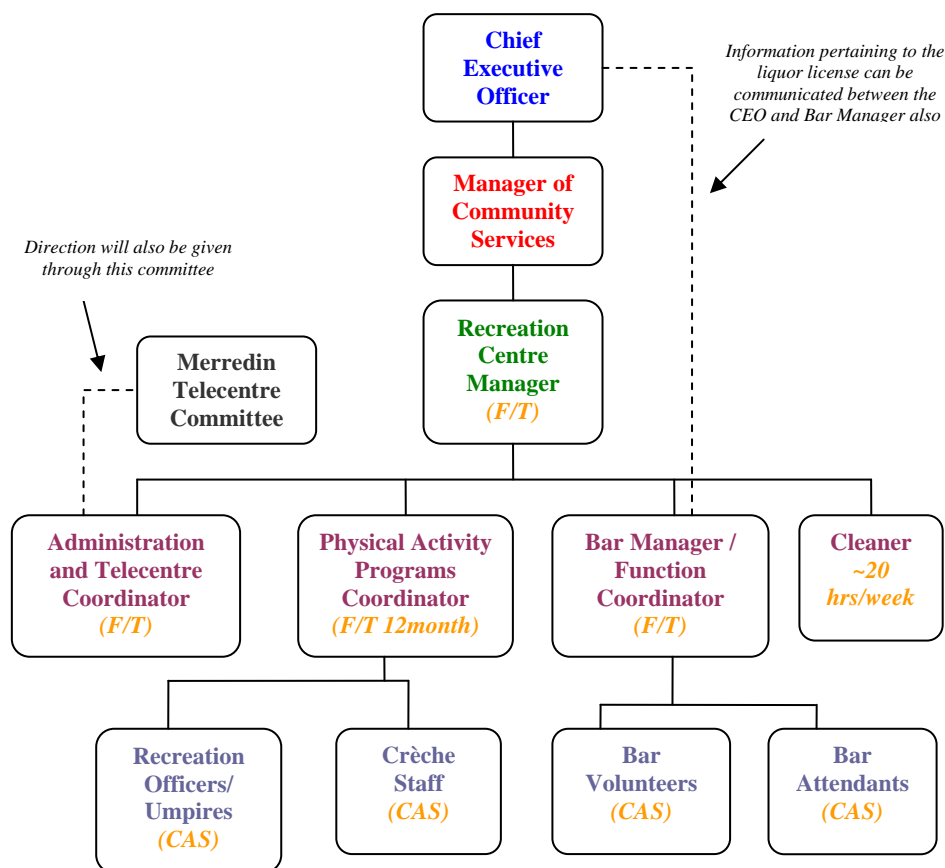
To provide an effective and efficient management approach that is environmentally and economically sound by:

- *Working in harmony with the Centre's key stakeholders*
- *Providing a high level of customer service and satisfaction*
- *Attracting and developing new and existing markets*
- *Investigating and implementing social and industry trends*
- *Maintaining a safe and inclusive environment*
- *Encouraging and recognising volunteer involvement*

Mission Statement

Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
"Enhancing our Country Lifestyle"

At its February 2007 meeting (CMRef 28812) Council resolved to adopt the following staff structure for the Centre:



The adopted MRC&LC vision and mission statement and the MRC&LC staff structure feature in the MRC&LC Business Plan.

Legal Implications:

Local Government Officers (WA) Award, 1999; and Restaurant, Tearoom and Catering Workers Award.

Budget Implications:

As indicated in the MRC&LC Business Plan, the Merredin Shire Council adopts the financial budget including the MRC&LC schedule fees and charges, on an annual basis.

Comments:

The purpose of the MRC&LC Business Plan is to provide a strategic direction and operational guide for facility personnel.

Specific objectives of developing this plan are to:

- Develop a vision and mission statement for the Centre
- Identify Centre goals and objectives. Develop strategies to be implemented by senior management
- Establish a core program structure to be supported by once-off programs upon demand
- Identify current user characteristics/demands and determine potential new markets

MINUTES

-
- Implement an effective marketing campaign
 - Identify an appropriate staffing structure to successfully implement desired strategies (and the training needs required)
 - Provide an asset management plan

The MRC&LC Business Plan has been compiled and is provided under separate cover at **Attachment 12.2A**. The key contents of the MRC&LC Business Plan include:

• Executive Summary	-	Page 2
• Introduction	-	Page 5
• Description of Business	-	Page 6
• Vision and Mission Statement	-	Page 7
• Core Business	-	Page 8
• Key Result Areas	-	Page 8
• Goals, Objectives and Strategies	-	Page 9
• Core Programs	-	Page 13
• Facility Changes	-	Page 15
• Marketing	-	Page 15
• Human Resources	-	Page 19
• Customer Service Plan	-	Page 21
• Customer Service Protocol	-	Page 22
• Complaint Resolution	-	Page 25
• Asset Management	-	Page 27
• Alcohol Management Plan	-	Page 28
• Financial Plan	-	Page 31
• Explanation of Financials	-	Page 32
• Safety and Risk Management	-	Page 36
• S.W.O.T Analysis	-	Page 37
• Environmental Scan	-	Page 41
• Product Lifecycle	-	Page 42

The draft MRC&LC Business Plan was considered at the MRC&LC Advisory Committee on 27th March 2007. The MRC&LC Advisory Committee consists of three representatives of the Merredin Sports Council, four Councillors and two Council officers.

Consultation conducted through the MRC&LC Advisory Committee gained input from community representatives. It is not considered necessary to seek additional community input because this plan is developed specifically to assist and direct Centre staff in the management of the facility. It is consequently recommended that Council adopt the plan as provided.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Business Plan.

28976

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Townrow

*That Council adopt the Merredin Regional Community and
Leisure Centre Business Plan.*

CARRIED 10/0

12.3 MERREDIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY AND LEISURE CENTRE FEES AND CHARGES

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Patricia Martin, Recreation Centre Manager
Legislation:
File Number:

Background:

The Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRC&LC) schedule of fees and charges have been researched and prepared for Council adoption, prior to the MRC&LC commencing operations.

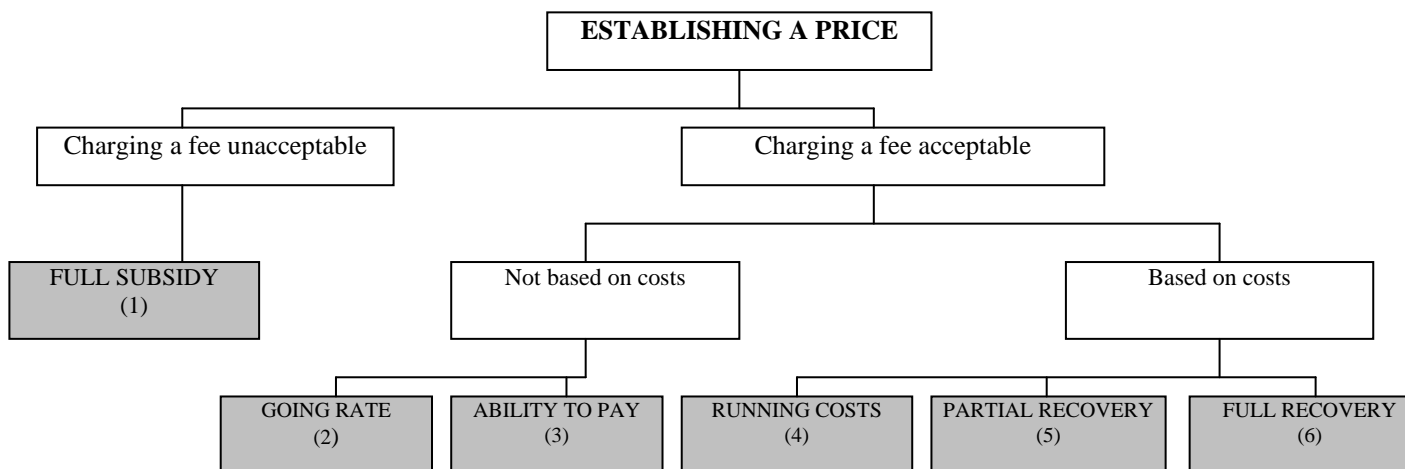
Determining and collaborating the fees and charges occurred from comparative research related to the Freebairn Recreation Centre (Kulin), Katanning Leisure and Function Centre, Midland Sports Complex, Merredin Telecentre, Cummins Theatre, Merredin Civic Bowling Club; and Nukarni Football Club.

At it's 17 April 2007 meeting (**CMRef 28877**), the Merredin Shire Council adopted the following strategy for determining prices in regards to the MRC&LC, as indicated in the MRC&LC Management Plan.

Pricing Strategy

A pragmatic approach is required towards securing income for the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre. Before setting a price it is necessary for Council to establish the extent to which cost recovery is required.

It is important that fees and charges are not set too high as to effectively eliminate the financial accessibility to the facility by sections of the community. The following diagram illustrates the methods that local government authorities generally utilise to establish the price for a product or service.



1. FULL SUBSIDY

No fee is charged or established fee is waived, therefore there is 100% subsidy for this type of usage, with discretion for application of the ability to waive fees exercised by the Merredin Shire Council.

2. GOING RATE

Pricing levels are set similar to other organisations offering the same or comparable service. This method may apply to programs coordinated by the Centre Manager and will be no less than the cost of program delivery.

3. ABILITY TO PAY

Prices are set at a level that different client groups are willing, or have the capacity, to pay. This may apply to programs aimed at sectors of the community with limited capacity to pay Going Rate (i.e. seniors, school groups) so as not to deter participation by target group.

4. RUNNING COSTS

The established price recovers all, or majority percentage of, direct operating and maintenance costs.

5. PARTIAL RECOVERY

The price recovers all running costs, plus a percentage of capital costs. This category may apply to setting and review of membership fees.

6. FULL RECOVERY

Price covers all running and capital costs. This is the pricing strategy adopted in the commercial sector and will apply in sales oriented contexts within the Centre (ie bar/function rooms).

At its meeting held 14 May 2007, the MRC&LC Advisory Committee was invited to provide feedback on the MRC&LC Fees and Charges Schedule.

Legal Implications:

Council has an obligation under the Local Government Act to include the fees and charges either as part of the Annual Budget; or in the local newspaper (Section 6.19).

Budget Implications:

The Merredin Shire Council adopts the financial budget including fees and charges on an annual basis, coinciding with the standard financial year.

Comments:

The proposed fees and charges schedule for the MRC&LC has been researched and compiled. This schedule is provided under separate cover at **Attachment 12.3.**

The MRC&LC Fees and Charges Schedule was considered at the MRC&LC Advisory Committee meeting held 14 May 2007. Suggested amendments from this meeting were implemented.

Advertising the fees and charges for the MRC&LC will provide community members with prior knowledge of facility costs.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. *Adopt the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre fees and charges;*
2. *That the fees and charges are advertised for the public; and*
3. *That Centre management implement the adopted fees and charges upon commencing centre operations.*

28977

Moved Cr Astbury sec Cr N Hooper

That Council:

1. *Adopt the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre fees and charges;*
2. *That the fees and charges are advertised for the public; and*
3. *That Centre management implement the adopted fees and charges upon commencing centre operations.*

CARRIED 10/0

12.4 MERREDIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY AND LEISURE CENTRE PROGRAMS PLAN

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Patricia Martin, Recreation Centre Manager
Legislation:
File Number:

Background:

A funding application was submitted to the Department of Sport and Recreation 22nd February 2007 for the amount of \$15,000, to implement the proposed Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre (MRC&LC) Programs Plan. This plan was developed by Centre management in the months leading up to the submission of the funding application.

Merredin Shire Council was made aware of this plan and the intention to apply for Department of Sport and Recreation funding from a report submitted by Tricia Martin, Recreation Centre Manager, at Council's February 2007 ordinary meeting.

MRC&LC Programs Plan

The MRC&LC Program Plan is currently being developed through consultation with key community service providers and stakeholders. This program plan completes the first stage in developing a proposed programming structure and timetable that will not only justify staff resources but will assist in obtaining grant funding. On completion of the MRC&LC Programs Plan, the Shire of Merredin has an opportunity to apply for funding through the Department of Sport and Recreation to support the coordination of the listed programs.

At its meeting held 27th March 2007, The MRC&LC Advisory Committee was given the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback to Centre management in regard to the proposed MRC&LC Programs Plan.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

The Department of Sport and Recreation has granted \$15,000 to the Shire of Merredin to implement the proposed MRC&LC Programs Plan.

The Shire of Merredin is contributing an amount of over \$30,000 to implement the MRC&LC Programs Plan. This contribution includes sport equipment and fit-out, some staff resources and administration.

The amount for sport equipment and fit-out is indicated in the current Merredin Shire annual budget (2006/2007) with staff resource and administration costs included in the up-coming 2007/2008 annual budget.

Comments:

MINUTES

The MRC&LC Programs Plan has been compiled and is provided under separate cover at **Attachment 12.4A**.

The key contents of the MRC&LC Programs Plan include; physical activity variation levels, physical activity program expenditure, early year's development programs, youth programs, adult / corporate programs, disability group programs and seniors programs.

The following anticipated outcomes of implementing the MRC&LC Programs Plan will assist with the ongoing viability in the Centre's core business consisting of both programs and services:

- Provide an enjoyable, safe and inclusive environment for people to participate in physical activity;
- Coordinate physical activity programs that will improve participants skills including balance, coordination, flexibility and strength;
- Provide an avenue of education and information sharing amongst participants, parents, centre staff and community service providers;
- Teach participants values and skills such as fair play, leadership and confidence in a practical situation;
- Provide an avenue for social interaction amongst similar age groups;
- Improvements in the quality of life, physical health and mental health of participants;
- Decrease in the prevalence or severity of a range of health conditions including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis and depression;
- The creation of affordable, sustainable opportunities for people to participate in physical activity within the local community;
- Increased social and community engagement by participants, combating isolation issues commonly acknowledged in rural communities, older people and parents;
- Increased awareness in the benefits of physical activity;
- The creation of networks between the health sector (GPs, community health, aged care, early year's development) and the recreation sector to provide multiple pathways to appropriate physical activity opportunities for community members.

The breakdown of the \$15,000, funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation, includes;

<i>Stationary</i>	-	\$500
<i>Promotions Newspaper</i>	-	\$1000
<i>Promotions Radio</i>	-	\$2000
<i>Promotions Post</i>	-	\$750
<i>Staff Training</i>	-	\$1000
<i>School Holiday Programs</i>	-	\$2300
<i>Crèche Staff</i>	-	\$2400
<i>Disability Group Program</i>	-	\$1800
<i>Early Years Programs</i>	-	\$3250
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>\$15,000</i>

The proposed MRC&LC Programs Plan was distributed and discussed at the MRC&LC Advisory Committee meeting on 27th March 2007, with minimal amendments suggested, prior to the plan being presented to Council. The MRC&LC Advisory Committee consists of three representatives of the Merredin Sports Council, four Councilors and two Council staff members.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council endorse the implementation of the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Programs Plan.

28978

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Astbury

That Council endorse the implementation of the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre Programs Plan.

CARRIED 10/0

12.5 ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE FUNDRAISING EVENT

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Skye Price – Manager of Community Services
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) intends to hold a fundraising event in Merredin during October 2007. The event is scheduled for a three day period on Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th of the month.

A “War and Peace” theme has been adopted to complement Merredin’s historical background. It has been estimated that seven hundred people will partake in the weekend activities.

The tentatively planned program will incorporate a movie night, as well as a light opera concert and a gala dinner at Cummins Theatre. Commercial businesses and tourism sites including the Country Nostalgia Gallery and the Military Museum will also be formally involved.

The RFDS is seeking use of the Cummins Theatre, recreation grounds and the new Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre for the duration of the fundraising event.

Specifically the organisation has requested the following:

1. Approval for camping at the Recreation Grounds on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th of October;
2. Use of ablution facilities;
3. Potential use of kitchen facilities;
4. Provision of additional rubbish bins at the recreation grounds and removal of the bins at the conclusion of the event;
5. A reduced fee for the hire of Cummins Theatre on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th of October.

Further enquires have ascertained that the RFDS organisers of the event consider it satisfactory to charge individuals whom camp at the Recreation Grounds, \$5.00 for the two nights. Recreation and leisure personnel also believe that this is a suitable nominal fee for the use of water closet and ablution facilities.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

The 2006/2007 cost for hiring Cummins Theatre is \$363.00 (including GST) per day, for a non-commercial group.

A schedule of fees and charges for the use of facilities at the MRC&LC are not yet finalised. It is proposed that use of the kitchen be charged at a rate of \$15.00 per hour (inc. GST), for non-commercial groups.

Comment:

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is an invaluable health care provider for regional centres and rural communities. The October fundraising event will enable promotion of the unique service and assist with the ongoing necessity to raise funds for the service's operation.

The fundraising event will also provide benefits for the Merredin community. Visitors will have the opportunity to appreciate Merredin's commercial precinct, tourist destinations and recreation facilities, whilst simultaneously contributing financially; and supporting economic development.

Furthermore, the event correlates with fulfilment of (the DRAFT Strategic Plan/ Plan for the future) Community objective 2, Strategy 1: *Foster vibrant activities and events that bring the community together*; and Action 1: *Support community events and activities*.

Officer's Recommendation:

1. *That the matter of Council supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service event in October 2007 when further information can be provided by Manager of Community Services be lifted from the table. (Refer 15 May 2007 CMRef 28927).*
2. *That Council offer support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service event in October 2007 by:*
 - a) *Approving use of the Recreation Grounds for Royal Flying Doctor Service event participants, on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 of October 2007 for a five dollar camping fee, per individual;*
 - b) *Donating the MRC&LC kitchen facilities for six hours use throughout the weekend of Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October 2007 with funds coming from Council's Donation Account E041160;*
 - c) *Donating Cummins Theatre during the period from Friday 26 October 2007 until Sunday 28 October inclusive.*

Absolute Majority Required.

28979

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Simmonds

1. *That the matter of Council supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service event in October 2007 when further information can be provided by Manager of Community Services be lifted from the table. (Refer 15 May 2007 CMRef 28927).*
2. *That Council offer support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service event in October 2007 by:*
 - a) *Approving use of the Recreation Grounds as an overflow camping area for Royal Flying Doctor Service event participants on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October 2007 for a fee equivalent to \$5.00 per individual;*
 - b) *Donating the MRC&LC kitchen facilities for six hours use throughout the weekend of Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October 2007 with funds coming from Council's Donation Account E041160;*
 - c) *Donating Cummins Theatre during the period from Friday 26 October 2007 until Sunday 28 October inclusive.*

CARRIED 10/0**ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

Reason: 2 (a) amended so the Recreation Ground would become available when other accommodation venues become unavailable.

12.6 MERREDIN NETBALL ASSOCIATION PROPOSED FUNDRAISING EVENT

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Skye Price – Manager of Community Services
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

The Merredin Netball Association intends to hold a fundraising Quiz Night at Cummins Theatre. The group would like to utilise the venue for the occasion on Saturday 1 September 2007.

The efforts of volunteers coupled with fundraising initiatives, enables the Merredin Netball Association to manage their financial position.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Cummins Theatre hire fees are usually charged at a rate of \$192.00 (including GST) per day, for a convention.

Comment:

Providing a suitable venue for the Merredin Netball Association event ensures that Community objective 2, Strategy 1, Action 1, *Support community events and activities* (of the DRAFT Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future) is fulfilled. Similarly, the mandate to *(i)increase the social and cultural activities within the Cummins Theatre* (Community objective 6, Strategy 1, Action 3) is also applicable.

Council resolved at the 15 May 2007 meeting (**CMRef 28928**) to donate the venue for the Country Womens' Association (CWA) Annual Homemaker Event to be held on 9 August 2007

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council donate the hire of Cummins Theatre for the Merredin Netball Association event on 1 September 2007 with funds to come from Council's Donation account E041160.

Absolute Majority Required

T Martin left the meeting at 3.27pm.

AM Peters left the meeting at 3.34pm.

AM Peters entered the meeting at 3.36pm.

Cr Morris left the meeting at 3.38pm.

Cr Morris entered the meeting at 3.38pm.

Moved Cr Simmonds sec Cr Morley

That Council donate the hire of Cummins Theatre for the Merredin Netball Association event on 1 September 2007 with funds to come from Council's Donation account E041160.

LOST 1/9

12.7 SHIRE OF MERREDIN STRATEGIC PLAN/ PLAN FOR THE FUTURE 2007-2012

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Debbie Morris
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

At the April 2007 Council meeting Council Resolution 28898 was carried 7/0: *“That the Merredin Shire Council endorse the “draft” Shire of Merredin Strategic Plan/Plan for the Future as presented and make the “draft” Shire of Merredin Strategic Plan available for public comment form 25th April 2007 to 11th May 2007.”*

An advertisement was published in the Wheatbelt Mercury on Wednesday 25th April 2007, inviting comments on the Shire of Merredin draft Strategic Plan 2007-2012, with a closing date of 11th May 2007.

A subsequent advertisement was published in the Wheatbelt Mercury on Wednesday 23rd May 2007, inviting comments on the Shire of Merredin draft Strategic Plan/Plan for the Future 2007-2012, with a closing date of 6th June 2007.

No formal written submissions were received, however Mr Ross Miles, Roadwise Road Safety Officer (Wheatbelt North) verbally informed the Shire that he believed road safety should be specifically identified in the Strategic Plan.

Staff advised Mr Miles that road safety was acknowledged within two Key Result Areas (listed below). However, the Action section had not specifically recognised Roadwise as a potential partner. This may be a consideration for Council.

COMMUNITY

Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeline
(4) Create a safe community	Work with the community to enhance safety and security (S1)	Establish partnerships to maximise the resources and attention given to prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and emergency situations: Police SES Fire Brigade Bush Fire Brigades LEMC (S1-A1)	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT

Objective	Strategy	Action	Timeline
(3) Plan and protect the built environment	Develop integrated transport plans	Implement strategies for: Movement of freight Access to grain handling facilities Improved safety and access for all road users Parking options Pedestrians and cyclists (S5)	Short Term (18) (S5-A13)

Legal Implications

The Plan for the Future is required to be completed by 30th June 2007 under the Local Government Act 1995 - 5.56, Planning for the future:

- (1) A local government is to plan for the future of the district;
- (2) A local government is to ensure that plans made under subsection (1) are in accordance with any regulations made about planning for the future of the district.

Budget Implications

Nil

Comment

Although no formal written submissions were received from the public on the "draft" Strategic Plan, the verbal discussions with Mr Ross Miles from Roadwise prompted a review by staff of the Community Key Result Area – Create a safe community.

It is recommended that a minor amendment be made to the Action section to include Roadwise; and other potential partners.

Action section to read:

Establish partnerships to maximise the resources and attention given to prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and emergency situations ***including, but not limited to:***
 Police
 SES
 Fire Brigade
 Bush Fire Brigades
 LEMC
Roadwise

Council adoption of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future will enable staff to concentrate on the priorities identified within the formal document.

Officer's Recommendation:

1. *That Council endorse an amendment to the "draft" Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future, as follows:*
Key Result Area COMMUNITY
Objective – Create a safe community
Strategy – Work with community to enhance safety and security
Action – Establish partnerships to maximise the resources and attention given to prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and emergency situations including, but not limited to:
Police
Fire and Emergency Services
Bush Fire Brigades
LEMAC
Roadwise
2. *That Council adopts the amended 2007 -2012 Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future.*

F Ludovico left the meeting at 3.39pm.

F Ludovico and J Mitchell entered the meeting at 3.40pm.

28980 Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Morley

1. *That Council endorse an amendment to the "draft" Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future, as follows:*
 - a) *Key Result Area COMMUNITY*
Objective – Create a safe community
Strategy – Work with community to enhance safety and security
Action – Establish partnerships to maximise the resources and attention given to prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and emergency situations including, but not limited to:
Police
SES Fire Brigade
Bush Fire Brigades
LEMAC
Roadwise
 - b) *Key Result Area COMMUNITY*
Objective – Promote and foster a healthy and active community (Community Well-Being)
Strategy – Actively pursue quality health and community care services and facilities

Action - Encourage the high quality delivery of private medical services (i.e. general practitioners), throughout the Shire.

2. *That Council adopts the amended 2007 -2012 Strategic Plan/ Plan for the Future.*

CARRIED 10/0

12.8 MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Skye Price – Manager of Community Services
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

The following report is provided for Council's information:

Cummins Theatre

The Cummins Theatre Manager appointee Ms Jane Bandurski, will commence her tenure on Monday 18th June 2007. After an intensive period of induction Ms Bandurski will initially conduct an assets audit and establish a registry of Cummins Theatre fittings and auxiliary items.

The Manager of Community Services has undertaken coordination of Cummins Theatre bookings and events during May, in the absence of a Theatre Manager.

The Merredin Repertory Club show *A little Murder never hurt anyone* will be staged Thursday 5, Friday 6, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 July 2007. *Dawn's Two Buck Shop* was in attendance at the Tivoli room from Wednesday 6th June until Saturday 9th June 2007. Students from Victoria Park Primary School in Perth will be touring Cummins Theatre on Thursday 14 June 2007. Another upcoming booking includes *Kids 'n' Music* workshops to be held on Sunday 9th September 2007. Liaison with Showtime Management and Hit Productions related to scheduling events during late 2007 and early 2008 has been postponed, until the Cummins Theatre Manager commences employment.

The Merredin Music Club and the Merredin Repertory Club have signed their respective Memorandums of Understanding.

Acquittal of a 2004 Lotterywest grant is pending.

Merredin Regional Library

The recruitment and selection process for the Regional Manager Library Services has concluded. It is anticipated that the successful incumbent will commence normal duties during July 2007.

The State Library of Western Australia has resolved to enable Regional Librarians to select up to seventy five percent of collection items, during the collection rotations. This has improved since the thirty-three percent entitlement previously. Regional Librarians can now ensure that library items better reflect the reading and educational interests of the community.

Merredin Regional Community And Leisure Centre

Ongoing liaison with Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) policy officers has resulted in the release of an additional \$50,000 grant funding (plus GST), prior to the MRC&LC building project reaching completion.

Recreation Centre Manager Ms Tricia Martin is currently advertising a part time cleaning position and readvertising for a Bar Manager/ Functions Coordinator.

Natural Resource Management

The Natural Resource Management Officer (NRMO) Position Description is currently being reviewed and compared with similar roles within other Local Government organisations. The position will be advertised in the Mercury Wheatbelt newspaper Wednesday 20th June 2007 and The West Australian newspaper Saturday 24th June 2007.

Tree planting projects with primary schools has been postponed until the NRMO position is filled and 10,000 trees are made available from Westonia nursery.

The Merredin Peak Reserve final report has been received from Paul Kloeden of Mulloway Studio consultants. The report will be considered by members of the Merredin Peak Advisory Committee.

Visitor Services

Taya Fritsch's maternity leave concludes on Sunday 1st July 2007. Taya will recommence duties as Visitor Centre officer during the week beginning Monday 2 July 2007.

Safe Driving Initiatives

Participated in a Road Safety grant application workshop on Friday 18 May 2007 to determine opportunities for funding; had a meeting with Senior Sergeant Les Evans Monday 21 May 2007; and meeting with Ross Miles, Roadwise Officer Friday 25 May 2007. Current research is being undertaken related to the Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia and the commercial organisation Drive Safe Australia.

Community Safety And Crime Prevention Plan

Estill and Associates Pty Ltd will be conducting a community consultation session Wednesday 20 June. Preliminary data has been forwarded to the consultants and surveys were distributed to all households throughout the Shire, the week commencing Monday 4 June.

Business Continuity Planning

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia, Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Insurance Services have worked collaboratively to deliver business continuity planning workshops for Local Government. This has been identified as a necessity

because of a likelihood of pandemic influenza. Following a Business Continuity Planning Workshop in Quairading on Wednesday 16 May 2007, a business impact analysis, pandemic influenza policy and a business continuity plan will be established for the Shire of Merredin.

Eric Hind Music Scholarship and Community Awards

Staff are currently collating information related to previous awards and accolade recipients. Potential opportunities for an event during 2007 are also being considered.

Reports from individual Community Services areas:**Library Services**

No report – Regional Manager Library Services appointee is yet to commence normal duties.

Visitor services

Report is at **Attachment 12.8A.**

Cummins Theatre

No report – Cummins Theatre Manager appointee yet to commence normal duties.

Community and Economic Development

Report is at **Attachment 12.8B**

Recreation & Leisure Services

Report is at **Attachment 12.8C.**

Natural Resource Management

No report – Natural Resource Management Officer's position vacant.

Status Report

The Action sheet detailing progress of Previous Council resolutions from March 2004 onwards is **Attachment 12.8D.**

Legal Implications

Compliance with relevant Acts and Local Laws.

Officer's Recommendation

That Merredin Shire Council receive the Manager of Community Services report for June 2007.

- 28981** Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Townrow
That Merredin Shire Council receive the Manager of Community Services report for June 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

- 28982** Moved Cr Crees sec Cr
That Council adjourn for afternoon tea.

CARRIED 10/0

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.44pm.

- 28983** Moved Cr Morley sec Cr Simmonds
That Council reconvene the meeting.

CARRIED 10/0

Council meeting recommenced at 4.18pm.

Cr Townrow and S Price were not in attendance.

10.0 COMMUNITY, HEALTH, BUILDING, TOWN PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

10.1 TENDER 10 – 2006/07 SALE OF LOT 201 BATES ST MERREDIN

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995, Sec 3.58
File Number:	CM/19/40

Background:

At the ordinary meeting of Council held on 20 June 2006 Council resolved to offer for sale by tender the Post Office Masters house at Lot 201 Bates Street, Merredin.

The lot was advertised for sale by tender in the West Australian on 14 April 2007 and the Merredin Wheatbelt Mercury on 8 April 2007. The closing date for tenders was the 11 May 2007.

No tenders were received.

Legal Implications:

The provisions of the Local Government Act 1995, Section 3.58 are applicable. Those provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 were followed and adhered to.

Budget Implications:

Council budgeted to receive \$25,000 in income from the sale of the property during the 2006/2007 financial year.

Comment:

The costs of advertising are approximately \$500. Council may wish to readvertise the residence for sale by tender or place a for sale sign on the lot in an attempt to generate interest in the lot.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council approve the installation of a "For Sale" sign on Lot 201 Bates Street, Merredin.

28984

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Astbury

That Council approve the installation of a "For Sale" sign on Lot 201 Bates Street, Merredin.

CARRIED 10/0

10.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING CONSENT – ELECTRICITY GENERATION – AVON LOCATION 19449, ROBARTSON RD, - CHRIS RAYMOND FOR NAMARKKON

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation:	Planning & Development Act 2005; Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1;
File Number:	PA10/09; P/7141

Background:

An application to construct an electricity generation emergency back up plant using biofuels has been received from Mr. Chris Raymond representing Namarkkon at Avon Location 19449, Robartson Rd, Merredin.

The submission and accompanying documentation is contained in **Attachment 10.2A.**

An area map of the location is contained within the submission on pages 6, 8 and 9 of the submission dated 22 May 2007.

Council has also received advice from the Western Australian Planning Commission seeking comment regarding a proposal to subdivide 2 hectares of Avon Location 19449 for the purposes of “Electricity Generation”. This information is the subject of a further report.

The provisions of the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme relating to the general farming zone indicates that the zone embraces the broad acre farming areas of the Shire and it is intended to protect the economic viability of those areas and to preserve the rural character and appearance of the area. Lot sizes are to the discretion of the Council based on what is locally accepted as a viable farm unit or where a non farming use is proposed the amount of land required for that use.

The zoning development table is silent on additional development standards for non farming uses.

The submission received suggests that the development standards for general industry be used in this instance.

The bio fuel is stored in bundled areas that are subject to the approval of the Department of Industry and Resources.

The applicant proposes to provide: -

Greater than 5000m² of landscaping areas. The plans submitted show proposed new screenings to the north and west (Robartson Rd) side of the

development and graded vegetation to the south and east sides of the development.

Setbacks of 15m in accordance with the zone table requirements for development within the general farming zone

The application is silent on car parking requirements. Approval of the development application should include a requirement for at least two car parking bays.

Advice to the applicant should include: -

- 1) Requirement to submit plans in accordance with the Building Regulations 1989 as amended.
- 2) Submission of the proposal to provide emergency generation of electricity to Western Power for consideration.
- 3) Requirement to submit plans for onsite waste disposal in accordance with the Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended.
- 4) Liaison with the Water Corporation for the supply of water to the site.
- 5) Requirement to comply with the requirements of the Planning Commission, EPA and DIR and provide that approval information to the Shire of Merredin.

Conditions of approval should include: -

- 1) Provision of landscaping plans showing species including one tree per 10m² area that is capable of growing to 3m in height.
- 2) Provision of two car parking bays.

Legal Implications:

Avon Location 19449 is zoned “General Farming” in accordance with the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No.1. Electricity Generation is a use defined within the scheme as a “PS” use for the zone.

“PS” means the use is not permitted unless special approval is given by Council and any conditions are complied with.

The application is subject to scrutiny by the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Industry and Resources, Western Power and the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Budget Implications:

Town Planning fees are levied on applications as per Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges and under the provisions of the Town Planning (Local Government Planning Fees) Regulations 2000.

The relevant fees of \$17,500 have been paid.

Comment:

The potential pollution issues are being assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority. An email received from Ms Nicole Zago of the EPA has

only raised the issue of a sensitive receptor which is located approximately 1700m from the site. If the EPA determine the proposal acceptable approval will be given with appropriate environmental conditions.

Noise pollution has been addressed within the submission and suggests that at 100m from the site the noise level will be less than 65dB(A). the closest residential property is 2 kilometres from the location.

The reserve capacity power station will provide a reliable infrastructure base support mechanism within the town of Merredin.

Officer's Recommendation:

1. *That the application from Namarkkon Pty Ltd to establish a Reserve Capacity Power Station on Avon Location 19449, Robartson Rd, Merredin be approved with the following conditions: -*
 - a) *Provision of landscaping plans showing species including one tree per 10m² area that is capable of growing to 3m in height.*
 - b) *Provision of two car parking bays within the development.*
2. *That Council advise the following advice to Namarkkon Pty Ltd: -*
 - a) *Requirement to submit plans in accordance with the Building Regulations 1989 as amended.*
 - b) *Submission of the proposal to provide emergency generation of electricity to Western Power for consideration.*
 - c) *Requirement to submit plans for onsite waste disposal in accordance with the Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended.*
 - d) *Liaison with the Water Corporation for the supply of water to the site.*
 - e) *Requirement to comply with the requirements of the Planning Commission, EPA and DIR and provide that approval information to the Shire of Merredin.*

28985

Moved Cr N Hooper sec Cr Morris

1. *That the application from Namarkkon Pty Ltd to establish a Reserve Capacity Power Station on Avon Location 19449, Robartson Rd, Merredin be approved with the following conditions: -*
 - a) *Provision of landscaping plans showing species including one tree per 10m² area that is capable of growing to 3m in height.*
 - b) *Provision of two car parking bays within the development.*
2. *That Council advise the following advice to Namarkkon Pty Ltd: -*
 - a) *Requirement to submit plans in accordance with the Building Regulations 1989 as amended.*

-
- b) Submission of the proposal to provide emergency generation of electricity to Western Power for consideration.*
 - c) Requirement to submit plans for onsite waste disposal in accordance with the Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended.*
 - d) Liaison with the Water Corporation for the supply of water to the site.*
 - e) Requirement to comply with the requirements of the Planning Commission, EPA and DIR and provide that approval information to the Shire of Merredin.*

CARRIED 10/0

**10.3 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION –
APPLICATION FOR SUBDIVISION AVON LOCATION 19449,
PURPOSE – ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

Reporting Department: Development Services
Reporting Officer: John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation: Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No.1
File Number: P/7141, WAPC Ref 134682

Background:

The Western Australian Planning Commission has corresponded (**Attachment 10.3A**) seeking Council comment regarding the proposal to subdivide 2 hectares from Avon Location 19449 for the purposes of establishing of an electricity generation plant.

A locality guide/map is contained within the submission received.

The Commission is seeking comment and/or conditions pertinent to the subdivision application. Council is also considering a town planning consent application relevant to this proposal.

The proposed subdivision is adjacent to an existing power station established by Western Power.

The application is in keeping with the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No.1 which supports smaller subdivisions within the general farming zone providing there are good reasons for the subdivision.

In this instance the subdivision is to permit the establishment of an electricity generation plant for reserve capacity.

Legal Implications:

The provisions of the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 are applicable. There are no specific sections of that Scheme that prohibit the proposed subdivision.

Electricity Generation is contained within the general farming zone as a PS use.

Budget Implications:

There are no budget implications to the Shire of Merredin.

Comment:

The report relating to the application for Town Planning Consent contains recommendations relevant to the application to commence development of a reserve capacity power station and is not repeated here.

Council should respond and advise of support for the application.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Western Australian Planning Commission be advised that the Shire of Merredin supports the application to subdivide 2 hectares from Avon Location 19449 for the purposes of establishing an electricity generation plant.

28986

Moved Cr Simmonds sec Cr Morley

That the Western Australian Planning Commission be advised that the Shire of Merredin supports the application to subdivide 2 hectares from Avon Location 19449 for the purposes of establishing an electricity generation plant

CARRIED 10/0

Cr Townrow declared a Financial Interest in Item 10.4 and left the meeting at 4.23pm.

**10.4 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION –
APPLICATION 134621, LOT 13086 GAMENYA AVENUE,
MERREDIN, SUBDIVISION**

Reporting Department: Development Services
Reporting Officer: John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation: Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1
Planning & Development Act 2005
File Number: P/9205

Background:

An application has been received from the Commission seeking Council comment regarding the proposal to subdivide the location 13086 Gamenya Ave, into two lots of approximately 17Ha and 10Ha accordingly.

(See Attachment 10.4A)

The land is owned by SR & KP Townrow of 10 Bourbonnais Retreat, Port Kennedy, WA 6172.

The land is zoned general farming within Town Planning Scheme No. 1. The draft Local Planning Strategy for the town of Merredin suggests that the land at Location 13086 within the town boundaries is proposed to be rezoned to general industry within the new local planning scheme.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications to the Shire of Merredin. The final decision of approval lies with the Western Australian Planning Commission. Council assesses the application within the provisions of the Town Planning Scheme and any applicable policies created there under.

Budget Implications:

Nil

Comment:

The provisions of the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 policy statement for the general farming zone states that where the proposed use is not farming that the lot sizes are at the discretion of the Council.

The land is a defacto subdivision already. The land has been identified within the future strategy as general industry land. The land is contained within the town boundaries of Merredin.

The land is flat, not low lying and is currently cropped.

The land could potentially be developed for industrial use and is contained within the existing general industrial area of the town of Merredin.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that the proposed subdivision of Location 13086, Gamenya Avenue into two lots is supported for the following reasons: -

1. *The lots are a defacto subdivision already;*
2. *The proposed use of the land within the Local Planning Strategy 2007 is to rezone the land to general industry to permit further industrial development of the town of Merredin; and.*
3. *The lots are within the town boundaries.*

28987

Moved Cr Simmonds sec Cr Morley

That Council advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that the proposed subdivision of Location 13086, Gamenya Avenue into two lots is supported for the following reasons: -

1. *The lots are a defacto subdivision already;*
2. *The proposed use of the land within the Local Planning Strategy 2007 is to rezone the land to general industry to permit further industrial development of the town of Merredin; and.*
3. *The lots are within the town boundaries.*

CARRIED 9/0

Cr Townrow entered the meeting at 4.25pm.

Cr Morley declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 10.4.

10.5 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING CONSENT – RECYCLING DEPOT, LOT 59, 60 AND 61 RAILWAY AVENUE, MERREDIN, SUBMITTED BY PETER DALTON FOR SELF

Reporting Department: Development Services
Reporting Officer: John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation: Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No.1, Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended, Environmental Protection Act 1986, Shire of Merredin Local Law 12 – Health.
File Number: P/2923

Background:

An application to establish a “recycling depot” on Lot 59 – 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin has been received from Mr Peter Dalton of 7 Kendall Street, Merredin. The application is contained in **Attachment 10.5A**.

A landgate map of the locality is contained in **Attachment 10.5B**.

Legal Implications:

The Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No.1 does not provide a definition for the proposed use and the use classification table does not address recycling ventures.

There are several definitions which can be used however none adequately address the proposed use of the land. The use could be defined as “service industry” whereby goods are received to be serviced. This is not an adequate definition.

Clause 6.7.1 permits the Council to consider an application that does not comply with a standard or requirement prescribed by the Scheme. Council may if it is satisfied that the approval would be consistent with orderly and proper planning of the locality and preservation of the amenity of the locality, by absolute majority, grant planning consent to the development with or without conditions.

Council must also be satisfied that the non compliance will not have an adverse effect upon the neighbouring occupiers or the users of the development.

There are residences within the locality and immediately adjacent to the proposed development. The residences have not been advised of the application. It is considered appropriate, if Council is to consider the application, to defer a decision pending advice received from the residents affected by the proposal.

Budget Implications:

Town Planning application fees of \$100 have been paid.

Comment:

The applicant seeks to provide a depot for the receipt of cardboard, plastic, paper and scrap metals. The applicant advises storage will occur within the existing building provided on the site and two small receipt cages will be provided at the rear of the building off Colin Street, Merredin. The applicant is prepared to remove the cages to reduce the risk of in-discriminate disposal.

The types of waste received are classified as inert and should not create an odour problem. The receipt of scrap metal may cause noise issues if at the time of deposit the metals are thrown around. Receipt of cans may cause vector control issues if the cans still contain residue.

Noise issues can be addressed through limitation of hours and vector control can be addressed through regular routine baiting programs. The existing use of the building includes forklift operation. Staff are unaware of any noise complaints received from the current operation.

The proposed operation will use wool presses for compaction and forklifts to transfer the recycled packaging onto trucks that will transport the waste to recycling centres in the metropolitan area.

Setting hours of operation will substantially reduce the potential for noise complaints. Whilst the application lists proposed hours of operation the applicant advised verbally that the best hours of operation would be those of the land fill site.

Litter may become an issue. Fencing of the site will contain the waste litter. A condition of regular cleaning of the lot can be included as a condition of approval. The requirement to fence the land would form part of the Development Approval. The minimum standard of fence is 1800mm chainmesh.

If Council is opposed to the application reasons must be given for refusal of the application. In this instance the reasons for refusal would be: -

- 1) Amenity of the area is compromised by the inclusion of the recycling depot due to the potential for misuse, littering, noise and odour emissions.
- 2) The use is more appropriate within the general industry zoning where there are buffers provided to alleviate the amenity of the area concerns.
- 3) The proposal is adjacent to the residential zone.

Officer's Recommendation:

1. *That the application from Mr. Peter Dalton to establish a Recycling Depot on Lots 59, 60 and 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin be advertised for public comment.*
2. *Subject to receiving no negative comments Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the planning application to establish the recycling depot on Lots 59, 60 & 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin.*

Absolute Majority Required

28988

Moved Cr Astbury sec Cr N Hooper

1. *That the application from Mr. Peter Dalton to establish a Recycling Depot on Lots 59, 60 and 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin be advertised for public comment.*
2. *Subject to receiving no negative comments Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve the planning application to establish the recycling depot on Lots 59, 60 & 61 Railway Avenue, Merredin.*

CARRIED 10/0**ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

**10.6 HEALTH ACT 1911 – 1979, AS AMENDED, SECTION 144;
CONVERSION OUTBUILDING TO RESIDENCE, LOT 15 BOORAN
SOUTH ROAD, GAVIN TOWNSEND**

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation:	Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended, Section 144
File Number:	P/7032

Background:

An application to convert a stone walled outbuilding to a dwelling on Lot 15 Booran South Road, Merredin has been received from Mr Gavin Townsend of 84 Kennedy Street, Northam.

A copy of the floor plan and 3D finished design will be available for viewing in Shire Chambers.

The property is owned by IR Wallace of 8 Booran South Road, Merredin. Reviewing the property history it is known that the current owner does not reside at the property. Staff understand the property is in the process of being sold to Mr Townsend.

A fire recently destroyed the timber framed residence on the location. An application has been made for a demolition licence.

The property has outstanding issues with the Shire of Merredin (in summary) including: -

1. Disposal of bitumen products from recent road works;
2. Rehabilitation works required from previous approvals operating as a gravel extraction works;

Accumulation of disused materials within the location.

Th Shire has obtained a bond of \$10,000 to ensure that rehabilitation works are undertaken.

Mr. Townsend has, in discussions relating to the planning application for use as a truck depot and the initial discussions regarding the conversion to a residence, advised that he will attend to the remedial works and outstanding issues of Council.

He again reiterated his verbal agreement to address those issues and withdraw the planning application for the temporary accommodation and industrial business during a meeting held at the Shire Offices on 11 June 2007. I have requested he put those statements in writing to Council. In addition I have

offered a copy of the rehabilitation plan to enable him to commence the required works.

Legal Implications:

Section 144 of the Health Act 1911 – 1979 as amended states: -

144. Building not erected as dwelling not to be converted into one

No person shall convert into or adapt or use as a dwelling any building not originally constructed or erected as a dwelling-house, and no person shall let, or lease, or sublet, or sublease, or otherwise permit, whether for any consideration or gratuitously, the use of, the building as a dwelling, without having first obtained the consent of the local government of the district in which the building is situated, and complied (in case a conditional consent is given) with such conditions as the local government has seen fit to impose.

[Section 144 inserted by No. 17 of 1918 s. 17; amended by No. 21 of 1957 s. 7; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

The stone walled outbuilding has been used as a pig pen, farm machinery storage and has a recently installed outhouse on the southern end. The building has been gutted with all internal walls and the concrete floor removed as part of the proposed upgrade of the building.

For information: -

The use of a single residential building by persons other than the owner's immediate family is subject to the requirements of the Health Act – Boarding House (<6 persons) and Lodging House (>6 Persons) provisions, and the Building Code of Australia. Should the residence be used by other persons those provisions can be brought to use to curtail any illegal use.

Nothing within this application to convert the building permits the establishment of any form of business pursuant to the Town Planning Scheme No.1. It is noted that the plans include an office within the residence. A formal application for a home occupation will be required to be submitted to Council. Mr. Townsend has been informed of this requirement.

Mr Townsend should be requested to formalise his intent to not pursue the application for an industrial business and temporary accommodation on Lot 15 Booran South Road, Merredin.

Budget Implications:

There are no fees for this application. Building application fees are applicable if the application to convert the building is approved.

Comment:

There is no residence located on the property currently. Pursuant to the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 an application for town planning consent is not required.

Mr. Townsend has advised: -

- 1) That accommodation for his staff has been obtained in Duff Street, Merredin and the residence is for his personal family use.
- 2) An additional residence is currently being purchased in Merredin townsite for housing of senior staff.

An inspection of the building by the Manager of Development Services has shown no public health grounds to refuse to permit the building to be used. The building's north end has deteriorated allowing the building to be well ventilated for a long period of time. The removal of the walls and floors minimizes any potential faecal contamination issues. The building has been cleaned using high pressure machines and chlorine bleaches.

The new roof and floor address any remaining issues of integrity and ongoing odour issue.

The plans provided have been prepared by an engineer and the external walls of the existing building have been structurally certified.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the application from Mr. G. Townsend to convert the stone walled outbuilding on Lot 15 Booran South Road, Merredin to a single residential dwelling be approved.

28989

Moved Cr Astbury sec Cr Townrow

That the application from Mr. G. Townsend to convert the stone walled outbuilding on Lot 15 Booran South Road, Merredin to a single residential dwelling be approved.

CARRIED 10/0

10.7 BUILDING STATISTICS REPORT

Reporting Department: Development Services
Reporting Officer: John Mitchell, Manager of Development Services
Legislation: Building Regulations 1989,
 Building Code of Australia 2006
File Number:

Background:

To outline the activities of the Building Surveyor to Councillors of the Shire of Merredin for the previous month.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Building fees are levied for Class 1 and Class 10 (residential) buildings at 0.3182% of the construction value of the work.

Building fees are levied for Class 2 – 9 (commercial) buildings at 0.182% of the construction value of the work.

In all cases a minimum building fee of \$40.00 is levied.

Building Licence No.	Licence issued to	Address of proposed building	Owner of property	Class of Building Type of Construction
BA26/07	Quality Builders, PO Box 303 Kalamunda 6076	Lot 1350 Whitfield Wy, Merredin 6415	Bruce Potter, PO Box 359 Merredin 6415	Class 1A, Steel framed 4 Bed dwelling
BA27/07	E Hombergen, Lot 14 Bruce Rock Rd, Merredin	Lot 14 Bruce Rock Rd, Merredin 6415	E Hombergen	Class 1A, Steel framed barn conversion to 3 Bed dwelling
BA28/07	EL Hancock, PO Box 370 Pinjarra 6208	Lot 11 Golf Rd, Merredin 6415	Vicki Maree Moore, 32 Golf Rd, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), New steel framed patio and garage
BA29/07	Ben Jardine, 5 Lewis Way, Merredin 6415	Lot 440 Craddock Rd, Merredin 6415	Ms J Whisson, 15 Craddock Rd, Merredin	Class 10(a), new steel framed patio
BA30/07	Joe Goedhart, 123 Parkes St, Burracoppin 6421	Lot 54 Dobson Ave, Merredin 6415	Department of Housing & Works 33 Bates Street, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed patio
BA31/07	Ben Jardine, 5 Lewis Wy, Merredin 6415	Lot 440 Craddock Rd, Merredin 6415	Ms J Whisson, 15 Craddock Rd, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed carport
BA32/07	Valdis Taukulis, RMB 1005, Westonia 6423	Lot 1497, Doyle St, Merredin WA 6415	GB & G Nicoletti, 20 Cowan Wy, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed iron roofed carport

Building Licence No.	Licence issued to	Address of proposed building	Owner of property	Class of Building Type of Construction
BA33/07	A Shade, 8 Gt Eastern Hwy, Cunderdin WA 6407	Lot 525 South Ave, Merredin WA 6415	St. Mary's School, 37 South Ave, Merredin WA 6415	Class 10(a), shade sails over playground equipment
BA34/07	Bartlett Building Contractors, 2 Oats St, Merredin WA 6415	Location 13206, Hughes Rd, Merredin 6415	B Bartlett, 11 Mills Rd, Merredin WA 6415	Class 1A, new 4 bed brick veneer dwelling
BA35/07	Bartlett Building Contractors, 2 Oats St, Merredin WA 6415	Location 13206, Hughes Rd, Merredin WA 6415	P Bartlett, 11 Mills Rd, Merredin WA 6415	Class 1A, new 4 bed brick veneer dwelling
BA36/07	Spadacinni Constructions, 42 Throssell St, Northam 6401	Lot 900 Endersbee St, Merredin WA 6415	Department of Housing & Works, 99 Plain St, Perth 6000	Class 1A, 2 x 3 bed brick veneer dwellings
BA37/06	Spadacinni Constructions, 42 Throssell St, Northam 6401	Lot 2 Caw St, Merredin WA 6415	Department of Housing & Works, 99 Plain St, Perth WA 6000	Class 1A, 2 x 3 bed brick veneer dwellings
BA38/07	Merredin Outdoor Centre, PO Box 792, Merredin WA 6415	Lot 413 French Ave, Merredin WA 6415	P Hastings, 18 French St, Merredin WA 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed iron clad garage
BA39/07	Merredin Outdoor Centre	Lot 3 Todd St, Merredin 6415	RJ & GM Duffy, 51 Todd St, Merredin WA 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed iron clad garage
BA40/07	Merredin Outdoor Centre	Lot 128 Fifth St, Merredin WA 6415	The Perth Diocesan Trust, 2 Fifth Ave, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed iron clad garage
BA41/07	John Mephram, 9 Lefroy St, Merredin WA 6415	Lot 1037 Lefroy St, Merredin 6415	J Mephram, 9 Lefroy St, Merredin 6415	Class 10(a), new steel framed garage and patio

Comment:

To date licences with a construction value of \$1,569,152.59 have been issued for the 2007 year with licence fees of \$7095.52 raised.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Council of the Shire of Merredin receive the Building Report for May 2007.

28990

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Astbury

That the Council of the Shire of Merredin receive the Building Report for May 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

10.8 WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE – TRANSPORT PROPOSAL

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, Chief Executive Officer
Legislation:
File Number: PH/20/1

Background

It has been found that a number of people with medical conditions living in the Wheatbelt are experiencing increasing difficulties in accessing specialist appointments in Perth, particularly the elderly. These difficulties include finding volunteer drivers, loss of confidence of patients in driving in Perth and the lack of resources of both vehicles and staff at the local health service.

The transport proposal is to provide a daily run from Merredin to Perth and return on Mondays to Fridays with pickups along the highway to see specialists in the metropolitan area. This would run as a trial period for 6 – 12 months in order to ascertain the effectiveness of the proposal.

It would require the employment of two bus drivers, a coordinator and the purchase/lease of a vehicle.

The WA Country Health Service is seeking funding from the Wheatbelt Development Commission/Local Governments of \$60,000. Indications from the Wheatbelt Development Commission is that they are prepared to fund \$30,000. Details of the proposal is attached at **Attachment 10.8A**.

Consultation

Mr Mark Hazelgrave, Director of Clinical Services – Wheatbelt Health Service – Eastern presented the proposal to WE-ROC Executive Meeting on the 30 May 2007. That group did not support the proposal.

The group suggested that as it was a Wheatbelt wide proposal that would benefit all communities, some more than others (but this was undeterminable at this stage) that the Wheatbelt Development Commission should fully fund the pilot project in order to determine its practicality and viability.

I understand that the NEWROC Chief Executive Officers also did not financially support the project.

Financial Implications

Council has not provided any funding in the 2006/2007 budget.

Strategic Implications

Action S3-A6 (Community) indicates that we should lobby State and Federal Governments for the provision of adequate services and facilities in Merredin.

Action S2-A4 (Economy) also indicates that we should develop strategies which ensure key regional facilities remain in Merredin and in the Region.

It would be fair to say that the provision of specialised heart or neurological services may never be provided in Merredin so patients with these issues should be helped to access the services in Perth.

It should be noted that the coordinator in the project proposal should be fully aware of all the services that are currently available in Merredin and other regional centres and should be able to direct patients to these services rather than sending them to Perth.

It is considered the project would be well utilised and provide an excellent service to help people in the Wheatbelt who require access to these services. Whilst some of the logistics may prove difficult (i.e. only a four hour window would be available to see a specialist in Perth) the purpose of the pilot is to examine these and develop effective strategies to deal with them

From the Shire of Merredin's point of view it is considered that the provision of health services is not a core business for the Shire and the provision of funding is not recommended.

However a letter of support should be sent to the Wheatbelt Development Commission along with a request for them to fully fund the pilot project.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council advise the Wheatbelt Country Health Service that:

- 1. Whilst it fully supports the Pilot Transport Service Project it is unable to provide funding.*
- 2. That the Shire of Merredin write to the Wheatbelt Development Commission requesting that they fully fund the Pilot Transport Project as it will have Wheatbelt wide benefits.*

J Garrett entered the meeting at 4.37pm.

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Astbury

That Council advise the Wheatbelt Country Health Service that:

- 1. Whilst it fully supports the Pilot Transport Service Project it is unable to provide funding.*
- 2. That the Shire of Merredin write to the Wheatbelt Development Commission requesting that they fully fund the Pilot Transport Project as it will have Wheatbelt wide benefits.*

LOST 1/9

28991

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Jones

That Council write a letter to WACHS advising that Council does not support the Pilot Transport Concept and that funds should be provided to encourage specialist services to come to Merredin to develop the Hub & Spoke Model concept.

CARRIED 10/0

J Mitchell left the meeting at 4.45pm.

**10.9 LEASE L5300 – FORMER MERREDIN MOTORCYCLE CLUB
PORTION LOT 1504, BARRACK STREET, MERREDIN**

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, Chief Executive Officer

Legislation:

File Number:

Background

Burgess Rawson, acting on behalf of the Public Transport Authority, has offered to renew the licence over the leased area previously used by the Merredin Motorcycle Club, adjacent to the Cadet Unit in Barrack Street. This can be seen on the aerial photograph and plan of Portion of Lot 1504 Reserve 10359. **Attachment 10.9A.**

The licence is for a five (5) year period commencing the 1st November 2006 at an annual lease payment of \$1.00 per annum payable on demand.

Staff are of the understanding that the site has not been utilised for a significant number of years.

Financial Implications

Whilst the licence fee is only \$1.00 per annum the licence does provide an obligation for Council to keep the area in a good condition at all times which includes the buildings on the site.

As the facilities have not been used for a significant period of time I would expect that some maintenance would be required.

Staff are unaware of any potential user of that site and it may be more appropriate not to renew the licence and provide the Public Transport Authority with an opportunity to enter into a commercial lease for the area.

Conversely, retaining the licence may preclude any future difficulties when Council finally is able to purchase this area and undertake its commercial/showroom subdivision.

It is staff preference not to enter into the licence as it does provide a financial obligation on Council and there is no demand for proposed use for this area.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council advise Burgess Rawson that Council does not wish to renew Licence L5300 portion of Lot 1504 Reserve 10359.

28992

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morley

That Council advise Burgess Rawson that Council wishes to renew Licence L5300 portion of Lot 1504 Reserve 10359 for a five (5) year period at \$1.00 per annum if demanded.

CARRIED 9/1

Reason: Council is seeking to subdivide the land and keeping control of the lease may avoid future conflict.

11.0 ENGINEERING SERVICES

11.1 MANAGER OF WORKS – MONTHLY REPORT

Reporting Department: Engineering
Reporting Officer: James Garrett, Manager of Works
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

Monthly report on operations.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Comment:**Road Construction**

Chandler Road Intersection – asphalt has been laid with some kerbing and line marking to follow.

Floodway on Narembeen- Merredin Road has been reconstructed and asphalt laid.

Forming up and gravelling of Talgomine Reserve Road near completion.

Goomarin Road floodway has been reconstructed and asphalt laid along with the gravelling of slippery sections of the road.

Construction of the concrete footpath on Golf Road has been completed.

Acquittals for carried forward works for RRG & R2R have been finalized.

Road Maintenance

Maintenance grading in the South East section of the Shire under way. Conditions still too dry to commence full annual maintenance grading program.

Bitumen road patching in progress.

Recreation Centre

Concrete footpaths has been completed.
Leveling of area around bowling greens completed.
Leveling of soil where landscaping to take place started.

Parks And Gardens

Raking and cleaning up of footpaths on Hay Street and Stephens is in progress.

Staff

Outside staff annual performance reviews have been conducted.

Water

Dam #1	20% Full	Capacity	74,455 kilolitres
Dam #2	9.5% Full	Capacity	71,675 kilolitres
Dam #3	30% Full	Capacity	46,000 kilolitres
Railway Dam	40% Full	Capacity	23,000 kilolitres

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the Manager of Works report for June 2007.

28993

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morris

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the Manager of Works report for June 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

Cr Morris left the meeting at 4.56pm.

Cr Morris entered the meeting at 4.57pm.

11.2 CHANGEOVER SIX (6) TONNE TRUCK (EMOLEUM WORKS CONTRACT)

Reporting Department: Engineering
Reporting Officer: James Garrett, Manager of Works
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

In the 2006/2007 plant reserve budget the 6 tonne truck that is contracted out to Emoleum Works for the Main Roads TNC 3/99 maintenance contract was to be replaced. Council budgeted \$50,000 for the change over.

As from 31 March 2007 Council no longer has to conduct a public tender if the purchase price of goods is less than \$100,000. All purchases are subject to Council's Purchasing policy (**CMRef 28853**)

A request to quote on the changeover of the truck was sent out on the 12 May 2007 to the following companies: Hutton & Northey Sales, Skipper Trucks, Major Motors and WA Hino.

The following companies submitted quotes

	NAME	CHANGEOVER PRICE
A	Major Motors	One Isuzu 6 tonne tip truck 141 kW \$82,109 incl. GST (\$72,568 Excl. GST)
B	Skipper Trucks	One Fuso Mitsubishi 6 tonne tip truck 177Kw \$84,238 incl. GST (\$74,413 Excl. GST)
C	WA Hino	One Hino 6 tonne tip truck 173Kw. \$91,025 incl. GST (\$81,922 Excl. GST)

Hino did not wish to purchase the trade-in vehicle.

A evaluation matrix is **Attachment 11.2A**.

The quote that gave value for money was from Skippers Trucks for one new Fuso Mitsubishi 6 tonne tip truck. This quote is more than \$24,413 over our budget of \$50,000 for the replacement vehicle.

Legal Implications:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

Council have allocated \$50,000 in the budget for the change over of the maintenance truck.

Comment:

The Tip Truck used for the maintenance contract has travelled 660,000 kilometres and requires a rebuild of brakes and liners, front king pins and front springs. The roof has holes where it has rusted away and will need repairing.

The Emoleum Maintenance contract is the Shire of Merredin's major source of private works income.

There is approximately \$228,000 of unspent funds in the plant reserve from the 2006/2007 budget.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council allocate \$24,413 additional funds from the Plant Reserve to purchase the new 6 tonne tip truck from Skipper Trucks.

Absolute Majority required.

28994

Moved Cr Wallace sec Cr Crees

That Council allocate \$24,413 additional funds from the Plant Reserve to purchase the new 6 tonne tip truck from Skipper Trucks.

CARRIED 10/0

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

11.3 WATER TRUCK TENDER NO 14 – 06/07

Reporting Department: Engineering
Reporting Officer: James Garrett, Manager of Works
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

The Shire of Merredin issued tender No 14-06/07 for one new Water truck on the 12 May 2007. Two options were requested in the tender, **Option 1** was for a tandem axle tip truck with a skid mounted water tank and **Option 2** was for a tandem axle water truck. Tenders closed on the 31 May 2007.

Our water truck and rubbish truck were both offered as trade-ins in this tender.

The following tenders were received:

	TENDERER	CHANGEOVER PRICE
	Option 1	
A	Major Motors	One Isuzu tandem axle tip truck with skid mounted water tank \$217,503 incl. GST (\$189,483 Excl. GST)
B	Skipper Trucks	One Fuso Mitsubishi tandem axle tip truck with skid mounted water tank \$177,661 incl. GST (\$153,405.50 excl. GST)
	Option 2	
A	Major Motors	One Isuzu tandem axle water truck \$182,996 incl. GST (158,426.40 excl GST)
B	Skipper Trucks	One Fuso Mitsubishi tandem axle water truck \$153,516 incl. GST (131,505.00 excl. GST)

Smith Broughton submitted a tender for outright purchase only of the two trade-ins on offer. The price of \$51,540.00 tendered was lower than the trade-in prices submitted by Major Motors (\$62,700.00) and Skippers Trucks (\$66,594.00).

The evaluation matrix is at **Attachment 11.3A**.

Legal Implications:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

Council has allocated \$120,000.00 in the budget for the change over of the water truck.

Comment:

Two options were called for in Tender N° 14-06/07 because staff felt that when the water truck is not required, the water tank could be removed and the truck used as an extra tip truck, to improve productivity in road construction.

There is approximately \$228,000 of unspent funds in the plant reserve from the 2006/2007 budget.

The tender price is \$33,405.50 above the budget for the changeover of the water truck and additional funds are required from the Plant Reserve Fund.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council award Tender 14-06/07 for the supply of one new tandem axle tip truck with skid mounted water tank for the change over price of \$153,405.50 excl GST to Skipper Trucks with funding for the purchase to come from the Plant Reserve Fund.

Absolute Majority Required.

28995

Moved Cr Simmonds sec Cr Wallace

That Council award Tender 14-06/07 for the supply of one new tandem axle tip truck with skid mounted water tank for the change over price of \$153,405.50 excl GST to Skipper Trucks with funding for the purchase to come from the Plant Reserve Fund.

CARRIED 10/0

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

E Hooper entered the meeting at 5.03pm.

J Garrett left the meeting at 5.03pm.

13.0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

13.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

I present the following report for June 2007:

Police Department – Regional Superintendents

The President and I attended a dinner for WA Regional Superintendents Forum held in Merredin on the 15 May 2007. I understand that it was the first such meeting held in Merredin.

Issues discussed were the recruitment of extra police from overseas and trends in regional areas.

Whitfield Way

I wish to advise that power reticulation at Whitfield Way has been completed.

The Water Corporation have pressure tested the water reticulation and found several leaks. They are currently investigating these matters. This issue has been brought to the attention of the Consulting Engineering and the Contractor.

WE-ROC / NEWROC Executive Officer

For Councillors information I wish to advise that Mr Niel Mitchell, Executive Officer of both WE-ROC, NEWROC, Great Eastern Country Zone and Central Country Zone of WALGA has resigned to take up an appointment as CEO of the Shire of Yalgoo.

A survey of whether he should be replaced by a full time officer or continue with a part time arrangement resulted in an even preference for each option. At a recent meeting of the WE-ROC Executive Group it was agreed that we would employ BHW Consulting to provide the Executive Officer function for a trial period of twelve months. During that interim period a review to ascertain whether a full time officer is required will be undertaken.

It is expected that the new arrangement will have minimal effect on the financial contribution Council makes to WE-ROC.

Clearing Application – Merredin Golf Club

Further to the CEO Report at the May 2007 Council meeting the Shire President, Deputy Shire President and CEO met with representatives of the Merredin Golf Club to progress the application to clear vegetation at Lot 687 Bates Street. At that meeting it was agreed that the Golf Club would re-survey the area to be cleared to provide a more accurate description of the potentially

affected area . Secondly both the Golf Club and the Shire of Merredin would provide personnel to assist in undertaking a survey for the tree stemmed trapdoor spider and thirdly the Shire of Merredin would obtain advice on the best process of rehabilitating areas disturbed.

This information was communicated to the local Department of Environment and Conservation office and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a date to undertake the spider survey.

In respect to the re-surveying of the area I understand the Merredin Golf Club has undertaken this activity and are currently developing new maps.

Defamation of the Shire of Merredin

As per Council's instruction on the 30 April 2007 (**CMRef 28900**) I made an official report to the WA Police Service and provided information to Council's solicitors for review. Under separate cover to this agenda item is a copy of the response to McLeod's Barristers & Solicitors marked **Attachment 13.1A**.

Meeting with Doctors

On the 29 May 2007 Councillors met with Dr Sola Freeman and Dr Gabriel Adeniyi in respect to issues they have concerning the Medical Practice and other matters. Under separate cover to this agenda item are notes of the meeting attached for Council information marked **Attachment 13.1B**.

2007/2008 Budget

Staff are currently actively engaged in developing the 2007/2008 budget. This activity will absorb significant time of the CEO and other activities will be re-prioritised in order for the budget to be completed on time.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the Chief Executive Officer's report for June 2007.

J Garrett entered the meeting at 5.09pm.

J Garrett left the meeting at 5.10pm.

28996

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Townrow

That Council receive the Chief Executive Officer's report for June 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

13.2 COUNTRY MEDICAL FOUNDATION – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

The Country Medical Foundation has written to Council seeking contributions from Local Governments to enable this Foundation to continue.

Essentially the purpose of the Country Medical Foundation is to provide scholarships to country students who undertake training as doctors and nurses. The Foundation has been in existence almost eighteen (18) years and in that period has made over \$1.6 million worth of grants available to these students. See **Attachment 13.2A**.

On 18 July 1989 the Shire of Merredin made a \$3,500 contribution to the Foundation (**CMRef 21670**)

Financial Implications

Council has not provided any funding in its 2006/2007 Budget.

It should be noted that as at the end of May 2007 Council's deficit to the Merredin Medical Practice is \$140,000.

Comment

Whilst the Country Medical Foundation has been successful in supporting country students to obtain medical qualifications the situation in 2007 is radically different to 1989.

Local Governments provided little support to medical practices in 1989 whereas in 2007 numerous Local Governments are making significant financial contributions to the running of medical practices within the community.

The Shire of Merredin has embarked on a program with the University of Notre Dame to provide first year students with a "taste and see" visit to Merredin in the last three years in order to highlight the benefits of working in country WA.

The other issue that needs to be considered is the continued support of the Foundation to country students. These students are more inclined to return to country areas and continued support to undertake their studies at universities in Perth will only be beneficial.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council donate \$..... in its 2007/2008 budget to the Country Medical Foundation.

28997

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morley

That Council advise the Country Medical Foundation that whilst it supports the Foundation it is unable to determine the success of the Foundation because it cannot determine how many scholarship recipients have returned to practice in country areas..

CARRIED 10/0

13.3 GOVERNANCE FOR WHEATBELT DRAINAGE – WHEATBELT DRAINAGE COUNCIL – DRAINAGE PRINCIPLES

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number: EM/11/3

Background

At Council's November 2006 meeting (**CMRef 28720**) Council discussed the management of drainage governance in the Wheatbelt indicating that local governments should not be involved because it has issues in the following areas; Resourcing of the model particularly financial, the separate pieces of legislation that need to be consolidated and the lack of overall State coordination.

Subsequently the Minister for Water Resources has established a Wheatbelt Drainage Council and appointed Mr Hendy Cowan as Chairman of the group to "*provide the government with the best possible advice to ensure a responsible and accountable approach to the planning, implementation and management of drainage in the context of catchment water management*".

Mr Hendy Cowan has written to Council requesting Council submit three or four key drainage principles seen as valuable to our community. A copy of this letter is attached. **Attachment 13.3A.**

Strategic Implications

Council's Draft Strategic Plan indicates that it would develop an Environmental Management Plan for the Shire of Merredin S1 – Environment and develop and implement water management strategy, S2 – A3 (Environment) and manage local ground water surface water run off and waste water so that it may be turned into a resource S2 – A5 (Environment).

Comment

These key principles could be funding, legislation, liability and consultation.

The Drainage Council needs to clearly determine who will be providing funding for the projects that it may wish to undertake. Is it the land holder at the top of the catchment, in the middle of the catchment or the bottom of the catchment? Who determines this? Who has the most benefit? On what basis is this determination made? Do other sectors who benefit from agricultural production i.e. food processors or does the whole economy through export earnings assist the country as a whole? It is appropriate to consider that the whole State will derive the benefit of any drainage works? As the State provides infrastructure for hospitals, roads and water where the whole State benefits from these activities this could be a principle for the Wheatbelt Drainage Council. Perhaps some latitude should be allowed where landholders are able to contribute and input into the works proposed.

The second principal should be legislative. All the relevant government legislation should be brought together as one consolidated Act, with responsibility of managing these issues placed with a single State Government Department. This ensures a state wide approach and a delineation of responsibilities.

The third principle that should be considered is liability and the risks associated with planning and implementing deep drainage. These issues are certainly too onerous for individual Local Governments or Regional Local Governments to bear. The liability for these works should be allocated to a State Government department. This principle also follows through to the protection of landholders and other stakeholders who may be affected by drainage works.

The last principle should be consultation. Proposed works should be publicly available to all and affected landholders and stakeholders should be consulted to ensure that their views are considered with any development proposal.

Officer's Recommendation

That the Shire of Merredin advise the Wheatbelt Drainage Council that it believes the following principles should be applied when considering drainage scheme proposals.

1. *Funding*
Any benefit from these drainage works will be shared between all stakeholders. Therefore, funding should come from State and Federal governments.
2. *Legislative*
All drainage legislation should be consolidated into one legislative act and administered by one government department.
3. *Liability*
The risk associated with any scheme rests with the government department charged to manage and implement the scheme.
4. *Consultation*
All stakeholders affected by any drainage proposal should be consulted during the project assessment phase.

28998

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Crees

That the Shire of Merredin advise the Wheatbelt Drainage Council that it believes the following principles should be applied when considering drainage scheme proposals.

1. Funding

Any benefit from these drainage works will be shared between all stakeholders. Therefore, funding should come from State and Federal governments.

2. Legislative

All drainage legislation should be consolidated into one legislative act and administered by one government department.

3. Liability

The risk associated with any scheme rests with the government department charged to manage and implement the scheme.

4. Consultation

All stakeholders affected by any drainage proposal should be consulted during the project assessment phase.

CARRIED 10/0

13.4 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MERREDIN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL – CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM.

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

The Merredin Senior High has written to Council requesting financial assistance to conduct its annual Radio Auction (September 2007) which is a fund raiser for the School Chaplain. **Attachment 13.4A.**

They request the use of Council's 1300 number (used for the Visitor Centre) for people to ring in to bid for auction items; the use of the vacant room at the Visitor Centre; and a donation of a family pass to the Merredin Swimming Pool.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Council's Donations account E041160 has a budget of \$15,360 to date \$14,121 has been expended.

The cost of the 1300 number is difficult to ascertain the number of calls will be difficult to estimate.

The current value of a family pass for the Merredin Swimming Pool is \$160; however this will be reviewed during the forthcoming Budget deliberations.

Council has already contributed \$3,000 to the Chaplaincy programme in 2006/2007 as it has done so for many years.

Comment:

Providing assistance to the Merredin Senior High School Chaplaincy Committee encourages them to continue to work to provide the resources necessary for the School Chaplain.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council donate the use of the Visitor Centre Freecall number and a 2007/2008 Family Pass to the Merredin Swimming Pool to the Merredin Senior High School for the Radio Auction, to raise funds for the School Chaplaincy programme from Council Donation Account Eo491160..

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED

28999

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Wallace

That Council donate the use of the Visitor Centre Freecall number and a 2007/2008 Family Pass to the Merredin Swimming Pool to the Merredin Senior High School for the Radio Auction, to raise funds for the School Chaplaincy programme from Council Donation Account Eo491160..

CARRIED 10/0**ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

13.5 UPGRADE OF MERREDIN HOSPITAL – FUNDING CUT

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number: PH/20/1

Background:

In the 2006/2007 State Budget, \$9 million was provided over a five (5) year program to develop and restructure the Eastern Wheatbelt District of the WA Country Health Service including the Merredin Hospital.

In the 2007/2008 State Budget a similar amount has been provided however, these funds have been deferred for a twelve (12) month period as shown in the table below.

Description	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
06/07 Budget	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$4,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$900,000	Nil	Nil
07/08 Budget	Nil	Nil	\$93,000	\$540,000	\$4,386,000	\$3,354,000	\$627,000

The budget papers also show that even though expenditure was planned in the 2006/2007 Budget for the 2006/2007 year (\$100,000), none of these monies have been spent.

This means that works for the Eastern Wheatbelt District have been effectively delayed for two years.

Strategic Implications

Item S3-A6 in Council's Draft Strategic Plan indicates we lobby the State Government to provide services and facilities.

Comment:

It is important that the Minister and the WA Country Health Service is informed that this is an unsatisfactory outcome especially when other sections of the WA State Budget Papers indicate that seeking to expand surgery, gastroenterology and gynaecology at the Merredin Hospital. This cannot be achieved without the improvements to the hospital.

Secondly, we need to ensure that even though funding has been provided for "bricks, mortar and equipment" it is important that funding is also provided for the human resource to actually operate and provide the services described. We need to ensure that the funding provided includes a component for human resource and if not ensure that it is provided for elsewhere in the departmental budget.

Thirdly, it would be appropriate to understand the planned activities proposed for the Eastern Districts Health Facilities in detail, so those communities can be aware of what improvements are intending to be made in their community and therefore hold the WA Country Health Service accountable to these plans.

Officer's Recommendation:

1. *That Council write to the Minister for Health and WA Country Health Service indicating that the deferment of funding for the Eastern Wheatbelt Country Health Service is unacceptable and requesting that planning occurs in the 2007/2008 year so that the improvements planned for 2008/2009 can actually be implemented.*
2. *That the Minister for Health and the WA Country Health Services be requested to provide details of the projects that are planned in the Eastern Wheatbelt District over the next five years detailing the specific improvements and the specific location of those improvements; and*
3. *That the Minister for Health and the WA Country Health Service be advised that the provision of "bricks, mortar and equipment" is insufficient to provide the improvement in services detailed in the last two WA State Budgets and funding needs to be provided to ensure that the human resources are available to enable the "bricks, mortar and equipment" to be utilised.*

29000

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr Morley

1. *That Council write to the Minister for Health and WA Country Health Service indicating that the deferment of funding for the Eastern Wheatbelt Country Health Service is unacceptable and requesting that planning occurs in the 2007/2008 year so that the improvements planned for 2008/2009 can actually be implemented.*
2. *That the Minister for Health and the WA Country Health Services be requested to provide details of the projects that are planned in the Eastern Wheatbelt District over the next five years detailing the specific improvements and the specific location of those improvements; and*
3. *That the Minister for Health and the WA Country Health Service be advised that the provision of "bricks, mortar and equipment" is insufficient to provide the improvement in services detailed in the last two WA State Budgets and funding needs to be provided to ensure that the human resources are available to enable the "bricks, mortar and equipment" to be utilised.*

CARRIED 10/0

13.6 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Reporting Department: Finance and Administration
Reporting Officer: Emma Hooper, Manager Finance & Administration
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

Each month attached to the Agenda (Refer to **Attachment 13.6**) is the Monthly Financial Report prepared for Council.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the Monthly Finance Report for June 2007.

29001

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Wallace

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the Monthly Finance Report for June 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

13.7 LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID

Reporting Department: Finance and Administration
Reporting Officer: Emma Hooper, Manager Finance & Administration
Legislation: Local Government Act & Financial Management Regulations
File Number:

Background:

A list of accounts paid during the month under delegated authority is presented to Council each month. **Refer to Attachment 13.7A.**

Legal Implications:

Local Government Act and Financial Management Regulations.

Budget Implications:

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions.

Comment:

The process of the accounts for payment has now been finalized with cheques being processed on a fortnightly basis and the main signatories being the Chief Executive Officer and Manager of Finance and Administration. The Manager of Development Services, Manager of Community Services and Manager of Engineering Services are also signatories in the case of either the Chief Executive Officer or Manager of Finance and Administration being absent.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the schedule of accounts as listed, covering cheques as numbered and totalling \$961,894.61 and amounts directly debited from Councils Municipal Fund Bank Account BSB 066-518 000 000 10 totalling \$181,879.78 and outstanding creditors totalling \$232,474.81.

29002

Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Wallace

That the Merredin Shire Council receive the schedule of accounts as listed, covering cheques as numbered and totalling \$961,894.61 and amounts directly debited from Councils Municipal Fund Bank Account BSB 066-518 000 000 10 totalling \$181,879.78 and outstanding creditors totalling \$232,474.81.

CARRIED 10/0

MINUTES

14.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN15.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

E Hooper left the meeting at 5.37pm.

16.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

16.1 SHIRE ADMINISTRATION OFFICES – ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Councillor: Cr Martin Morris
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background:

The Shire Administration building is an impressive entry statement to Merredin, it is well kept and showcases Merredin as a vibrant town. Unfortunately, it is not possible to see what the building is, or stands for, unless viewed from King Street, which is predominantly used by local residents or people visiting the Shire Administration Centre for varying reasons. Either way, they know what the building is without reading it on the entry statement.

The majority of people, including visitors to Merredin view the building from Barrack Street, where there is no signage to indicate what the building is. Many visitors make comment that it is an impressive motel or something.

In the planning and building stages, and many times since, it has been suggested that a statement wall and appropriate wording similar to that proposed for the entry, be replicated on the Barrack Street side.

It is not a large expense to build an entry wall like those in King Street, and it would put the finishing touch to the Shire Administration building.

The Shire Administration building is one to be proud of and we should let people know what it is and what it stands for.

Legal Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Approximately \$3,000

Councillor's Recommendation:

That an entry statement similar to those at the King Street entrance to the Shire Administration building be erected on the lawned area of the building, facing Barrack Street.

29003

Moved Cr Morris sec Cr Jones

That an entry statement similar to those at the King Street entrance to the Shire Administration building be erected on the lawned area of the building, facing Barrack Street by December 2007.

CARRIED 8/2

MINUTES

16.2 CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE DESERT TIMBERS

Reporting Department:	Community Services
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Morris
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Number:	ED/11/2
Strategic Reference:	Economy – Objective (2) (S1) (S1-A1) & (S4-A6)

Background

The Golden Pipeline Project, initiated by the National Trust, commenced around 2000. The aim of the project was to conserve, interpret and showcase the 560km Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, an engineering masterpiece. The project was due to be completed by January 2003, 100 years after the pipeline was completed.

The project involved the Golden Pipeline Trails from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie, refurbishment of the “Bookends” - Number 1 Pumping Station (Mundaring) and Mt Charlotte (Kalgoorlie). This was to be followed by an upgrade to the Pumping Station located in the centre - No 4 Pumping Station (Merredin). A Golden Pipeline Business Plan was prepared and a comprehensive marketing campaign was launched.

The Business Plan identified No 4 Pumping Station as a potential boutique brewery, bar and restaurant with an associated Visitor Centre linking the three generations of pump stations that are within the overall precinct. However, these ideas, along with many others that have been proposed, have never come to fruition.

In early 2005, the National Trust, with funding from Lotterywest, stabilised the condition of No 4 Pumping Station, with a new roof and guttering, strengthening of the rail platform and improvement to the drainage, making it a safe ruin.

In May 2007 contact was made with Anne Brake from the National Trust regarding future plans for No 4 Pumping Station. Anne advised that recently the National Trust’s Manager of Natural Heritage, Mr Alan Briggs, identified No 4 Pumping Station as a potential site for a Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers. The concept included making furniture and other goods from desert timbers harvested from regrowth areas, particularly associated with the old wood lines but also with the idea of doing some replanting. The Centre would include a strong education and training component. The project would have great economic and social benefits for Merredin.

A briefing meeting was held in Merredin on Friday 15th June 2007, with representatives from the National Trust, CY O’Connor College of TAFE and Shire of Merredin.

Mr Alan Briggs, provided a DRAFT submission for funding to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a Centre for Excellence prepared by the National Trust. The project is anticipated to cost \$10 million.

The current parties involved and supportive of the project include:

- Hon Kim Chance MLC
- Forest Products Commission
- CY O'Connor College of TAFE
- Wheatbelt Development Commission
- Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee
- Private industry

An Expression of Interest has been submitted to Wheatbelt Development Commission to assist funding the feasibility study (\$60,000), with the remainder of funds being sourced from other funding bodies.

Legal Implications

Nil

Budget Implications

Nil at this stage.

Comment

The Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers proposal for Number 4 Pump Station by the National Trust is the first project that has been supported and progressed to this stage.

The project has the potential for increased economic and social benefits to Merredin.

The National Trust are intending to have the support from both State and Federal members by the end of July 2007, with the project included on the party platform prior to the Federal election.

The National Trust is seeking the following support from the Shire of Merredin:

- Council to support the proposal
- Council to consider their level of commitment – in kind support to local business, strategy for training and delivery of people resources
- Council's written letter of support
- Council to lobby Federal and State Members of Parliament and obtain their support

The National Trust will continue with the project and will also meet with Federal and State Members of Parliament to seek their support.

Officer's Recommendation

That the Merredin Shire Council support the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers proposal by the National Trust at Number 4 Pump Station.

That the Merredin Shire Council provide a letter of support for the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers proposal by the National Trust at Number 4 Pump Station and agree to lobby Federal and State Members of Parliament for support of this project.

29004

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Townrow

That the Merredin Shire Council support the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers proposal by the National Trust at Number 4 Pump Station.

That the Merredin Shire Council provide a letter of support for the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers proposal by the National Trust at Number 4 Pump Station and agree to lobby Federal and State Members of Parliament for support of this project.

CARRIED 10/0

Cr Astbury left the meeting at 5.45pm.

29005

Moved Cr Jones sec Cr Simmonds

That Council nominate Cr Martin Morris to represent the Shire of Merredin on the National Trust Working Group developing the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Desert Timbers in Merredin.

CARRIED 9/0

16.3 RE-LOCATION EXPENSES FOR REGIONAL MANAGER LIBRARY SERVICES

Reporting Department: Community Services
Reporting Officer: Skye Price, Manager – Community Services
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

The position of Regional Manager Library Services was advertised during April 2007 in the West Australian newspaper, through the State Library of Western Australia intranet web page; and the local Mercury-Wheatbelt newspaper. Formal employment applications closed April 30. Two applications were received from candidates. Only one candidate met key selection criteria related to formal tertiary qualifications and former work experience. After interviewing the candidate with the Manager – Outreach from the State Library of Western Australia and undertaking professional referee checks the interviewed applicant would like to fulfil the Regional Manager Library services role.

The preferred candidate will be relocating from Broome to commence her work responsibilities. It is anticipated that relocation will occur during the month of July 2007.

The Current Council policy (number 2.14) related to re-location expenses stipulates that:

- 1. Council will pay up to twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.00) removal expenses;*
- 2. Fifty per cent of the costs are refunded immediately upon the production of suitable receipt;*
- 3. The balance of costs are refunded upon the completion of 12 months satisfactory service to be evaluated by the Chief Executive Officer;*

This policy was adopted during September 2000.

It is proposed that three thousand dollars (\$3000.00) be offered to the successful candidate, under the same provisions and guidelines as the existing policy.

Legal Implications

Nil

Budget Implications

An additional eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800.00) in excess of the usual removal expenses allowance will be required.

Comment

The candidate has considerable experience and qualifications. She retains a Bachelor of Science (Library Technology) and professional membership as an Associate of the Australian Library and Information Association. Additionally, the candidate will have completed a Graduate Certificate Urban and Regional Planning during July 2007. She intends to undertake study toward a Master of Science (Library and Information Services) during the second academic semester of 2007.

The preferred candidate will be relocating with her husband and two children. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and associated cost of living has altered significantly since the time that the Council Policy related to re-location expenses was introduced in 2000. A figure of three thousand dollars is in keeping with re-location monies offered by other local government organisations.

Whilst Council is considering this issue it may be appropriate to update this policy. Perhaps a figure of “up to \$2500.00 (two thousand five hundred dollars)” transfer and removal expenses better reflects the current market and employment incentives offered to professionals.

Officer’s Recommendation

That the Merredin Shire Council approve relocation expenses to the value of three thousand dollars for the Regional Manager Library Services appointee.

That Council amend Policy 2.14 by increasing the amount of transfer and removal expenses to \$2,500.00.

Absolute Majority Required

Cr Astbury entered the meeting at 5.49pm.

29006

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr N Hooper

1. *That the Merredin Shire Council approve relocation expenses to the value of three thousand dollars for the Regional Manager Library Services appointee.*
2. *That Council amend Policy 2.14 by increasing the amount of transfer and removal expenses to \$2,500.00.*

CARRIED 10/0

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

AM Peters left the meeting at 5.55pm.

AM Peters entered the meeting at 5.56pm.

16.4 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Cr Grant Astbury
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

Background

Merredin Shire Council has eleven (11) Councillors, a number that has been the same from when there were wards and a greater population.

The current trend in Councils is toward smaller numbers of Councillors.

Prior to the forthcoming elections in October, one Councillor has indicated that they will not be restanding as they are living in Perth and another will be retiring mid term for the same reason.

This provides the opportunity to reduce the number of Councillors to either 10 or 9.

There are two options regarding the process. Firstly, if Council makes the decision to reduce the number of Councillors they can open it up for a period of public comment prior to it going to the Local Government Advisory Board, or Council can class the matter as a minor one and not have the comment period and send it directly to the Local Government Advisory Board.

The elections are on the 20 October 2007 so there may not be enough time for public comment prior to the electoral process commencing.

This is an opportunity to make an important change towards a more efficient Council.

Legal Implications

Electoral time line.

Budget implications:

Cost saving of \$8000.00 per year in Councillor sitting.

Moved Cr Astbury sec Cr Wallace

1. *That the Merredin Shire Council reduce the number of Councillors from eleven (11) to nine (9) for the forthcoming Local Government elections in October 2007.*
2. *That the matter be referred directly to the Local Government Advisory Board.*

LOST 3/7

Cr Jones left the meeting at 6.11pm.

Cr N Hooper left the meeting at 6.12pm.

- 29007** Moved Cr Morris Sec Cr Townrow
That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Attila Menschelyi, Regional Manager–Wheatbelt , Department of Housing and Works for attending Council meeting and for staff to proceed with the application for joint venture housing with Department of Housing and Works in the construction of additional single person dwellings and additional units at Merritville Retirement Village.
CARRIED 8/0

CMRef 29012 17 July 2007 – addition to above motion.

Cr Jones entered the meeting at 6.14pm

Cr N Hooper entered the meeting at 6.14pm.

P Hastings left the meeting at 6.14pm .

- 29008** Moved Cr Crees sec Cr Morley
That Council move behind closed doors to discuss confidential matters (S 5.23(2) Local Government Act).
CARRIED 10/0

Council went behind closed doors at 6.16 pm.

- 29009** Moved Cr Astbury sec Cr N Hooper
That Council come out from behind closed doors.
CARRIED 10/0

Council came out from behind closed doors at 7.35pm.

17.0 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

17.3 RELIEVING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – OCT/NOV 2007

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

29009

Moved Cr Simmonds sec Cr N Hooper

That Council appoints Trevor Ruland as Relieving Chief Executive Officer for the Shire of Merredin between the period 08 October 2007 and 08 December 2007.

CARRIED 10/0

17.2 RENUMERATION OF DOCTORS

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

29010

Moved Townrow sec Cr Morley

That Council reaffirm its decisions of 15 May 2007 and reiterate the Council offer the following:

- 1. Remuneration for Triage 4 and 5 and Private Patient billings at a rate of 80% for Doctors Freeman and Adeniyi.*
- 2. All billings to be processed through the Merredin Medical Practice bank accounts.*
- 3. Occupational superannuation to be payable up to statutory limits.*

CARRIED 10/0

**17.1 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – SHIRE OF MERREDIN
AND WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE – WHEATBELT REGION –
PROVISION OF DOCTOR SERVICES**

Reporting Department: Administration
Reporting Officer: Frank Ludovico, CEO
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Number:

29011

Moved Cr Townrow sec Cr N Hooper

1. *That staff meet with the Doctors and Staff at the Merredin Medical Practice to Council meet with representatives of WACHS and discuss the implications of all the options associated with endorsing the WACHS / Shire of Merredin Provision of Doctors Services MOU.*
2. *That the Shire President, Deputy Shire President, Councillor Julie Townrow and Chief Executive Officer meet with representatives from WA Country Health Service along with the Doctors and Staff of the Merredin medical Practice to discuss the WACHS/Shire of Merredin Provision of Doctor Services MOU.*

CARRIED 10/0**18.0 CLOSURE**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.42pm.