



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday, 27 September 2022
Commencing 6.00pm



Common Acronyms Used in this Document	
CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DCEO	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
ES	Executive Support Officer
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
GO	Governance Officer
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media and Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Manager of Projects
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre



Shire of Merredin Annual Electors Meeting

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ELECTORS' GENERAL MEETING PROCEDURES

The following provides an overview of the legislative provisions governing the format and procedure for the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Prepare Annual Report

The *Local Government Act 1995* ("the Act") requires that the Local Government is to prepare an Annual Report (Section 5.53), accept the Annual Report (Section 5.54), advertise its availability to the public (Section 5.55) and hold an Annual Meeting of Electors within 56 days of accepting the Annual Report (Section 5.27).

Matters for discussion at the Annual Meeting of Electors

In accordance with section 5.27(3) of the Act and regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* ("the Regulations") the matters to be discussed at the Annual Meeting of Electors are firstly the contents of the Annual Report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

President to preside at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Section 5.30 of the Act stipulates that the President (or if not available, the Deputy President) is to preside at an Electors Meeting.

Voting at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Regulation 17 of the Regulations outlines the voting provisions at an Electors Meeting as follows:

1. Each elector at the meeting is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided, but does not have to vote;
2. All decisions are to be made by a simple majority vote; and
3. Voting is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret.

Procedure at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Regulation 18 of the Regulations states that the procedure at an Annual Meeting of Electors is to be determined by the person presiding (President or Deputy President) at the meeting.

Decisions made at an Annual Meeting of Electors

In accordance with Section 5.33 of the Act, all decisions made at an Annual Meeting of Electors are to be considered at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council or, if that is not practicable:

1. At the first Ordinary Meeting of Council after that meeting; or
2. At a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

If, at a Meeting of the Council, a Local Government makes a decision in response to a decision made at an Annual Meeting of Electors, the reasons for the decision are to be recorded in the Minutes of the Council Meeting.

Definition of Elector

An Elector is defined under the Act as a person who is eligible to vote in an election of the Shire of Merredin.

Speaking at Electors Meetings

When addressing the Meeting, electors are asked to step up to the lectern and state their name and address for minute taking purposes. Electors will also be asked to complete the Question Submission form and return it to the Shire's governance staff.

Shire of Merredin
Annual Electors Meeting
6:00pm Tuesday, 27 September 2022



1. Official Opening

The President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Njaki Njaki people of the Nyoongar Nation and paid his respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The President then welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6:00pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr M McKenzie	President
Cr D Crook	Deputy President
Cr R Billing	
Cr J Flockart	
Cr R Manning	
Cr P Van Der Merwe	
Cr M Simmonds	

Staff:

L Clack	CEO
C Townsend	A/DCEO
L Boehme	EMCS
L Mellor	EMES
P Zenni	EMDS
D Hay-Hendry	MP
M Wyatt	EA/ES
O Mellor	GO

Members of the Public: Heather Giles, Roy Butler, John Flockart

Apologies:

Approved Leave of Absence: Cr Patroni

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 3.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 20 July 2021.
Attachment 3.1A

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing **Seconded:** Cr Flockart

83022 That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 20 July 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 7/0

4. 2020/21 Annual Report

4.1 Receipt of the 2020/21 Annual Report
Attachment 4.1A

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing **Seconded:** Cr Simmonds

83023 That the Annual Report, as presented in Attachment 4.1A, for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 be received.

CARRIED 7/0

5. General Business

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, and Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, electors present at the Annual General Meeting of Electors are invited to raise any items of general business for discussion.

Ms Heather Giles of Merredin 6415

Ms Giles thanked Councillors for their time, effort and energy put into Merredin. Ms Giles expresses concerns with the management and service levels of the MRCLC and advised she had been told by the Shire President that a review of the current management model was underway.

She further commented: I have been through the local football season as a member of a club, but also as a person who likes where I live, and I found it embarrassing hosting other teams. The Canteen is disorganised under both the permanent Manager, and now the interim Manager. The canteen closes, so players who come off the ground have no food to eat. The cleanliness and bar service is a problem. You are well aware of all of that and I am hopeful there will be a good resolution going forward. It is important that we maintain the Recreation Centre, and we should be using it to our full capacity.

A: The CEO thanked Ms Giles for her comment and advised her that the Shire are conscious the MRCLC is an important facility for the community of Merredin and the Shire recognises the importance of understanding the expectations of the community in relation to the facility.

As such, Council is currently conducting a review into the operational model of the MRCLC which will include identification of the needs of sporting clubs, the financial modelling for the centre, and identify a series of options for Council to consider for the future operations of the Centre.

The CEO advised Ms Giles the review would consist of several elements including consultation with sporting clubs and members of the Community. She advised Ms Giles that with her permission, the Shire would provide her with further details about the upcoming consultation and how Ms Giles can participate should she wish to.

Mr Roy Butler of Merredin 6415

Mr Butler commented that he had considered if he should attend the meeting as Councillors would be aware of the question he wished to raise, however had decided it was important to raise again.

He further queried: There was a motion passed in July 2020 that the Shire would consider buying an electric vehicle for the Shire and there was money allocated for its purchase. Perhaps you have already bought them. If you have not, why not, and when will the Shire purchase an electric vehicle. The purchase of an EV by the Shire is a chance for the Shire to be innovative and set a good example."

A: The CEO advised Mr Butler that he was correct, the resolution was for Council to consider purchasing an electric vehicle, however, there was not a budget allocated for an electric vehicle in the year the resolution was passed, and it was not allocated in the plant replacement budget at that time, or in the subsequent year.

The CEO further advised that it remains an outstanding resolution, and it is the intention of the Administration to identify a vehicle which is operationally suitable for an EV to be considered, and once that occurs, and the relevant vehicle is due for replacement, that a further report will be brought to Council, with operational and financial considerations associated with the purchase to be considered prior to a decision being made.

Of the plant which has been replaced since the resolution, none have been operationally suitable to be changed to an EV with the current infrastructure in Merredin and the needs of the team.

Mr Butler further commented he did not agree with the response provided by the CEO, and found it disappointing.

Mr John Flockart of Merredin 6415

Mr Flockart commented that most Councillors and staff know him from his continued role volunteering with bushfire, and while he had not intended to raise a question, he would like to take the opportunity to make a comment.

He further commented: I am involved in that [bushfire] part of the community, and have been for a long time and it is pleasing to see the change of the staff/Administration in bushfire mitigation.

There has been an effort in mowing parts of town that are normally quite high. I notice some have been done on more than one occasion and I think Cr Van Der Merwe's in his fire control portfolio would agree, and he is probably pleased as well.

Being a Councillor or a staff member in a small country town and is always a hard gig and it is nice to acknowledge something that you see. Well done and hopefully something can be continued to be done on a regular basis."

A: The CEO thanked Mr Flockart for his comments, and advised that emergency management and bushfire control is, and will remain a priority for the Administration.

The CEO further said with Mr Flockarts permission, she would like to take his positive feedback to the outdoor works team who have been completing the work.

She also advised the Shire has a renewed focus on emergency management, and the Shire's emergency management had further improved in the previous financial year, as it had grant funding for a part time position for emergency management. Although the grant funding had expired, because Council has seen this as a priority, they have chosen to fund this from municipal funding to continue this important work so the focus would continue.

Mr Flockart gave his permission for the positive feedback he had provided, to be passed onto the outside works crew and staff.

6. Closure

There being no further business, the President thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6:13pm.

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