

SHIRE OF MERREDIN



“Heart of the Wheatbelt”

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

16 July 2013

MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Merredin held in the Council
Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on
Tuesday 16 July 2013 commencing at 3.00pm.**

ATTENDANCE:

Councillors:	KA Hooper	Shire President
	RM Crees	Deputy Shire President
	BJ Anderson	
	DN Hayes-Thompson	
	T McFarlane	
	D Morris	
	M Morris	
	W Wallace	
Leave of Absence:	DM Crook	
Staff:	G Powell	Chief Executive Officer
	L Wyatt	Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer
Gallery:	Mr Ian Lane	

1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 3.05pm. Mr Ian Lane was present.

2.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Lane addressed Council about his concerns for the Nokanning West Road. He noted the correspondence received from the CEO and posed the question "what has changed in 5 years?" This was when he believed the Nokanning West Road was partially resealed to 6 metres.

Mr Lane understood the budget constraints that Council is addressing however he queried the road maintenance plan and the cost of finishing the resealing of Nokanning West Road. He also queried the road count that was conducted and requested a copy of the results.

The President responded to Mr Lane advising that due to the cost involved Council was not able to reseat the entire road and that there are a number of roads in the same condition and facing the same solution.

Mr Lane was advised that a written response would be provided.

Mr Lane left the meeting at 3.13pm.

3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Crook has approved leave of absence from this meeting.

- 31162** Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: McFarlane
That Councillor Crees be granted a leave of absence for the August meeting of Council.

CARRIED 8/0

4.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Crees declared a financial interest in item 18.1 Differential Rates Model as a landowner with wind turbines located on his property.

5.0 PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 June 2013 and Special Council Meeting Minutes held 27 June 2013.

- 6.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held 18 June 2013
Attachment 6.1A

- 31163** Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr McFarlane
Officer's Recommendation
That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 June 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 8/0

- 6.2 Special Council Meeting Held 27 June 2013
Attachment 6.2A

- 31164** Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Wallace
Officer's Recommendation
That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 27 June 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 8/0

7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

WALGA AGM Agenda: the President asked that the agenda be provided to Councillors and that any comments be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

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

Nil

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

9.1 WE-ROC Council Meeting Held on 26 June 2013
Attachment 9.1A

9.2 GECZ Meeting Held 27 June 2013
Attachment 9.2A

31165 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr D Morris
Officers Recommendation
That the minutes of the WE-ROC Council Meeting held 26 June 2013 and GECZ Meeting held 27 June 2013 be received.

CARRIED 8/0

10.0 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

10.1 **REOPENING OF THE SHIRE OF MERREDIN WASTE WATER LAGOON-
CHANDLER ROAD LANDFILL SITE**

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	Rebecca Bowler- Environmental Health and Compliance
Legislation:	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986, Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	WM 16/02
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil

Background

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*- Licence for Prescribed Premises, the Shire of Merredin Chandler Road Landfill site is able to accept the following Controlled Wastes from the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004: Septage Waste – wastes from the apparatus for the treatment of sewerage, Grease Wastes- waste resulting from food preparation, stormwater, pondwater and finally fire debris and washwater. The current liquid waste treatment lagoon is at close to full capacity. Council recently resolved to cease acceptance of liquid waste from 1 July 2013.

If Council is to continue to accept controlled waste from controlled waste carriers then it will need to accept only that liquid waste is collected from within the bounds of the Shire of Merredin.

Comment

The service is being provided to those that do not generally service the Shire of Merredin area. We receive, on a regular basis, liquid waste from Shire of Westonia mine site, Tammin and from as far east as Southern Cross and Coolgardie.

There was an incident in 2012 where approximately 20,000L of ‘non-compliant’ liquid waste was disposed of within the current liquid waste lagoon. Since advice of the proposed closure of the lagoon became known, concern was expressed by contractors at the impact this would have on their businesses and the business sector. After further review it became apparent that the current lagoon could continue to operate but there is a need to limit the depositions into the waste water lagoon to those which come from the Shire of Merredin residents only.

This will be achieved through the implementation of a declaration form which will need to be signed by the owner of the Shire of Merredin property, the controlled waste carrier and a Shire of Merredin Chandler Road Landfill Site Attendant. The declaration will determine the address of the property from where the liquid waste has been derived from, the amount (volume) of waste collected and the relevant contact details of the owner of the property. It is believed that this will allow the facility to remain open within current constraints and still service the local community.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

A charge of \$0.07c per Litre from waste disposal carriers for the deposition of appropriate waste water in to the Shire of Merredin waste water lagoon will apply.

31166 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Anderson

Officer's Recommendation

That the Shire of Merredin Waste Water Lagoon remains open post 1 July 2013 and be restricted to use by Shire of Merredin residents only subject to appropriate procedures being put in place.

CARRIED 8/0

31167 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr McFarlane

That the fees and charges for liquid waste disposal be increased from 0.7c per litre to 15.0c per litre.

CARRIED 6/2

10.2 **LANDFILL PASSES 2013/2014**

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	Rebecca Bowler- Environmental Health and Compliance
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	WM 16/02
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil

Background

The landfill pass system was introduced in the 2011/12 financial year and has been in use up until the end of the 2012/13 financial year. The original concept behind the implementation of tip passes was to limit the number of times the landfill was accessed by the owners of each rateable property to 4 visits per financial year, irrespective of the waste load that they were intending to deposit (unless disposing of recyclables- unlimited access granted).

Due to differences in interpretation caused perhaps by an overly complex system, the current system has been rendered ineffective. It is proposed that changes be made to the way that Shire of Merredin residents are identified in relation to allowing access to the Chandler Road Landfill Site.

Comment

It is proposed that a Shire of Merredin Residential Landfill Pass be issued to Shire of Merredin residents for the purposes of identification only. This identification tag/disc (see draft attached) will be used to identify Shire of Merredin residents from commercial entities and also from residents residing outside the bounds of the Shire of Merredin.

The landfill pass system will be used by residents to gain entry into the Landfill Site. A 'no tip pass, no free dump' policy will apply. This will mean that Shire of Merredin residents will be able to dump sorted waste free of charge. Unsorted waste will attract the appropriate fee.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil. Cost of identification tags/discs will be met from within the current budget. Should the pass not be produced the normal fee will apply except for sorted loads and recyclables which will remain free of charge.

Officer's Recommendation

That a new Landfill Pass scheme, allowing Shire of Merredin residents unlimited free access to the Chandler Road landfill site, provided that they present their Identification tag/disc on entry with a "no tip pass, no free dump" stance applying.

31168 Moved: Cr Crees

Seconded: Cr Anderson

Resolution

That a new Landfill Pass scheme, allowing Shire of Merredin residents unlimited free access to the Chandler Road landfill site, provided that they present their Identification tag/disc on entry with a "no tip pass, no free dump" stance applying but unsorted loads of rubbish will incur the appropriate fee.

CARRIED 5/3

11.0 ENGINEERING SERVICES

11.1 ROADS TO RECOVERY (R2R2) FUNDING

Reporting Department:	Engineering Services
Reporting Officer:	Kevin Paust
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	R10/01
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil

Background

The current Roads to Recovery program expires on 30th June 2014. The Shire of Merredin's allocation for the period 1st July 2009 – 30th June 2014 is \$2,033,033. \$1,165,721 has been recouped leaving \$867,312 of which \$513,462 has been allocated to specific roads in the draft budget for the 2013/14 financial year.

The remaining \$353,849 requires allocation this financial year as there is no carry over to the next round of R2R2 funding.

Comment

It is suggested that the remaining \$353,849 be allocated in near equal portions between urban and rural roads.

Six town streets have been identified by Roman2 and a visual inspection of these roads was carried out by the CEO and EMES.

The order of priority on urban streets according to Roman2 and costing are as follows;

Alfred Street - \$56,700
Ellis Road - \$26,100
Pereira Drive - \$33,300
Solomon Road - \$66,428
Tomlinson Road - \$50,400
Allbeury Road - \$111,428

Insufficient funds are available to undertake all the above (total \$344,056) and it is suggested that Alfred Street, Ellis Road, Pereira Drive and Solomon Road be undertaken at a cost of \$182,528. The remaining roads will be prioritised through the Five Year Plan.

In the rural area, Korbrellkulling Road has been prioritised as it requires a second coat seal. \$72,000 has been allocated in the draft budget to reseal 2.5 kilometres. The extra funds will increase this by 6.1 kilometres to 8.6 kilometres at a cost of \$171,321.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil. This is external funding with no matching requirement.

31169 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Anderson

Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That the following urban streets be included in the 2013/14 Road program at a cost of \$182,528 - Alfred Street, Ellis Road, Pereira Drive and Solomon Road.***

- 2. That an additional 6.1 kilometres for the resealing of Korbrellkulling Road be included in the 2013/14 Road program at a cost of \$171,321.***

CARRIED 8/0

11.2 **MERREDIN LANDFILL FACILITY – FREE MULCH DAY**

Reporting Department:	Engineering
Reporting Officer:	EMES
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	WM 11/01
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil

Background

There is currently a considerable amount of mulch that has accumulated over the past year and is stored at the Shire refuse site.

A free mulch day was held on the 16th February 2013 and was well received by the rate payers of Merredin.

Two Dogs Hardware was approached by EMES and given the opportunity to purchase mulch at a discounted rate but to date have not taken up this option.

Comment

The storage and maintenance of the mulch takes a considerable amount of space and time which is not recouped in the sales with year to date yielding \$360.00 in 2012/2013.

As the Shire of Merredin has an MOU with the Water Corporation and is recognised as a Water Wise Council, free mulch days could encourage community members to become Water Wise.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

This will not create an income for Council but would create good will and contribute towards saving water resources.

31170 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Officer's Recommendation

That three free mulch days per year be scheduled commencing on the 31st August 2013 as part of Councils obligations under the Water Corporation MOU to encourage the community to become Water Wise.

CARRIED 8/0

12.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1 LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID

Reporting Department:	Finance & Administration
Reporting Officer:	Evelyn Arnold
	Finance and Administration
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995 & Financial Management Regulations
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	List of Accounts Paid

Background

The attached List of Account Paid ([Attachment 12.1A](#)) during the month under Delegated Authority is provided for Council's information.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

Financial Implications

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions. It should be noted that outstanding creditors total \$77,227.38.

31172 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr McFarlane

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the schedule of accounts as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, bank charges, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$1,432,066.79 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account and \$1,015.10 from Council's Trust Account.

CARRIED 8/0

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12.2 **MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT**

Reporting Department:	Finance and Administration
Reporting Officer:	Evelyn Arnold
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Monthly Finance Report

Background

The Monthly Finance Report is attached for Council's information.
([Attachment 12.2A](#))

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

Financial Implications

As outlined in [Attachment 12.2A](#).

31173 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the Monthly Finance Report for June 2013.

CARRIED 6/2

12.3 **EMPLOYER SUPERANNUATION OBLIGATIONS – INCREASE FROM 9% to 9.25%**

Reporting Department: Corporate and Community Services
Reporting Officer: CEO
Author: Chantelle Paust
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

Background

From July 1 2013, Council is obligated to increase Superannuation Guarantee payments for all employees from 9.0% to 9.25%.

Comment

Employers are obligated to pay superannuation to all employees who are over the age of 18 years old and who earn over \$450.00 (gross) per month.

Over the next 7 years the Australian Taxation Office will gradually increase the Superannuation Guarantee amount payable to all employees by their employer. These contributions are compulsory. As at July 1 2013, employers will be obligated to increase Superannuation Guarantee amounts and continue to increase contributions until July 1 2019 when contributions will total 12.0%. The table below details the increments;

Year	Rate (%)
2013-14	9.25
2014-15	9.5
2015-16	10
2016-17	10.5
2017-18	11
2018-19	11.5
2019-20	12

The Superannuation Guarantee age limit of 70 will also be removed from July 1 2013. As a result employers will be required to contribute to the complying superannuation funds of employees 70 years and older.

An option for Council consideration is to amend its policy on superannuation to reduce its matching contribution thereby ensuring that its total contribution does not exceed the maximum of 14% currently applying under the policy.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992
Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993
Superannuation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2013
Local Government Act 1995
Council Policy

Financial Implications

It is estimated that the additional cost for 2013/14 will be in the order of \$7,100. Should Council wish to reduce its voluntary contribution, there would be a saving of approximately \$2,300 thereby incurring an additional cost of approximately \$4,800 for the 2013/14 financial year.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council acknowledge the 0.25% increase in Superannuation Guarantee payments from 1 July 2013 and resolves whether to amend its policy to reflect a maximum superannuation contribution of 14% to any one employee.

31174 Moved: Cr McFarlane Seconded: Cr D Morris

Resolution

That Council acknowledge the 0.25% increase in Superannuation Guarantee payments from 1 July 2013 and resolves to amend its policy to reflect a maximum superannuation contribution of 14% to any one employee.

CARRIED 8/0

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12.4 FEES AND CHARGES 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR - ADDITIONAL

Reporting Department: Finance & Administration
Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Schedule of Fees and Charges
(Attachment 12.4A)

Background

In the May 2013 ordinary meeting of Council the Fees and Charges schedule for 2013/14 financial year was adopted. Subsequently, some amendments are required.

Comment

The below listed additional charges and clarifications are required:

Description	Charged 2012/13	Proposed 2013/14
Commercial Refuse Charge 1100lt - per annum*	\$546	\$575
Commercial Refuse Charge 1100lt – (Additional Pick Up) per annum*	\$546	\$575
Commercial Refuse Charge 1.5m ³ – (Additional Pick Up) per annum*	-	\$965
Commercial Refuse Charge 3.0m ³ – (Additional Pick Up) per annum*	-	\$1,925
Commercial Refuse Charge 4.5m ³ – (Additional Pick Up) per annum*	-	\$2,885.00
Waste Management Levy	\$32	\$32
Commercial Green Waste - per M ³	-	\$10
Residential 6x4 Trailer –Bulk Waste/ Demolition Waste (Sorted) = Residential Tip Pass	-	Free
Residential 6x4 Trailer – Bulk Waste/Demolition Waste = Residential Tip Pass (Unsorted) - per m ³	-	\$31.00

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Residential Tandem Trailer – Bulk Waste/Demolition Waste = Residential Tip Pass (Sorted)	-	Free
Residential Tandem Trailer – Bulk Waste/Demolition Waste = Residential Tip Pass (Unsorted) - per m ³	-	\$45
Provision of Bar Staff for Functions outside normal hours of bar operation – Bar Manager	-	\$40.00 per hour
Provision of Bar Staff for Functions outside normal hours of bar operation – Additional Staff	-	\$30 per hour

The Commercial Refuse Charge was removed from the original schedule on the understanding that the 1100lt bins would no longer be available in the 2013/14 year. However, due to supply shortages of the new bins, it will now be necessary to phase in the change which means some commercial properties will continue to use the 1100lt bins for at least a portion of the 2013/14 year. The additional categories for waste disposal at the land fill site represent an effort to clarify and classify the type waste being deposited and restrict free waste disposal to Shire of Merredin residents.

The addition of Bar Staff fee will allow the flexibility to provide a bar service for a specific function as well as an additional revenue stream.

Statutory/Policy Implications

The Local Government Act 1995 allows for the imposition of fees and charges as outlined in section 6.16 and 6.17.

Financial Implications

Any increase in fees will be reflected in the budgeted revenue.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council adopt the fees and charges to be effective from 1 July 2013.

31175 Moved: Cr Wallace

Seconded: Cr Anderson

That Council adopt the fees and charges to be effective from 16 July 2013.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0

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31176 Moved Cr M Morris Seconded; Cr Wallace

That consideration of item 12.5 be deferred to the end of the meeting.

CARRIED 8/0

Note: A special Council meeting will be held on Friday 19 July 2013 for the purpose of adopting the 2013/2014 budget.

12.5 **2013/2014 BUDGET - ADOPTION**

Reporting Department: Finance and Administration

Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold – Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations

File Reference: Nil

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: 2013/2014 Budget document

Attachment 12.5A

Background

Council is required to prepare and adopt, in the manner and form prescribed, its Annual Budget by no later than 31 August each year, in accordance with Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995. A number of motions are required to formalise the process.

Statutory Implications

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1995, an Absolute Majority decision of Council is required in adopting the Annual Budget.

Comment

Council has considered the contents of the various schedules contained in the draft budget, the plant replacement program, road works program and capital expenditure items. Variations to the draft information are incorporated in the Annual Budget document which is presented in **Attachment 12.5A**.

Officer's Recommendation

1. **General Rate**

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Section 6.33 of the Local Government Act 1995, imposes a rate in the dollar for the areas in the Shire valued on Gross Rental Values of 10.4332 cents and Unimproved Values as outlined below for the 2013/2014 financial year.

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Unimproved Value	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$1.4902
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1.9861
UV3 – Mining	\$2.9804
UV4 - Special Zone Wind farm	\$2.9804
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$2.9804
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$2.9804

2. General Minimum Rate

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Section 6.35(1) of the Local Government Act 1995, set a general minimum rate of \$699 for the 2013/2014 financial year for Gross Rental Value properties. Unimproved Values properties as outlined below:

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate
UV1 – Rural	\$868
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$868
UV3 – Mining	\$139
UV4 - Special Zone Wind farm	\$1,157
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,157
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$868

3. Due Date for Payment of Rates

That the Shire of Merredin set the due date for payment of rates for the 2013/2014 financial year to be 23rd September 2013.

Due Date for Payment of Rate Instalments

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Regulation 64(2) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, set the due date for the payment of rate instalments for the 2013/2014 financial year as follows:

<i>First Instalment</i>	<i>23 September 2013</i>
<i>Second Instalment</i>	<i>25 November 2013</i>
<i>Third Instalment</i>	<i>28 January 2014</i>
<i>Fourth Instalment</i>	<i>24 March 2014</i>

4. Interest on Rate Instalments

That the Shire of Merredin set an interest rate of 5.5% for the 2013/2014 financial year in accordance with Section 6.45 (4)(e) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 68 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

5. Administration Charge on Instalments

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Section 6.45(3) of the Local Government Act 1995, set an administration charge of \$11.00 per rate instalment notice where the instalment plan is selected.

6. Interest on Overdue Rates

That the Shire of Merredin set an interest rate of 11% for the 2013/2014 financial year in accordance with Section 6.51(1) of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 70 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

7. Interest on Money Owing to Council – General Debtors

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Section 6.13 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 19(a) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, set an interest rate of 11% for the 2013/2014 financial year.

8. Adoption of Budget

That the Shire of Merredin, in accordance with Section 6.2(1) of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt the Budget for the 2013/2014 financial year as presented in Attachment 7.3A.

9. Adoption of Material Variance Level for Reporting

That Council adopt the value of +/- \$5,000.00 or 5% whichever is the greater as the minimum amount for reporting material variances for the 2013/2014 financial year.

12.6 **YOUTH ACTIVITY /MUSIC EVENT – FEE WAIVER**

Reporting Department:	Corporate and Community Services
Reporting Officer:	Evelyn Arnold
Author:	Marilyn Sayers
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Letter from Ethan Cooper <u>Attachment 12.6A</u>

Background

The Community Liaison Officer has facilitated three meetings held with students from Merredin College over the last two months to ascertain and plan youth activities for Shire of Merredin and neighbouring shires. Fifteen students have been involved in the meetings from Y8-12. They have surveyed the senior school on what events were the most popular and now have undertaken to organise two events – a trip to Perth and a music event. One College staff member has also taken a lead role and the students have enlisted the help of older youth/siblings/friends, parents and some key community groups eg Police.

The group decided they needed a name and came up with Merredin Youth Voice which is to be used on a Shire sponsored Youth Activity Grant application to the Department of Communities. They have also named the music event “Bring On Summer” as explained in the letter.

Comment

Each person in the group has taken responsibility for a task of the event organisation from input into writing the grant application, promotional material, engaging bands, dance groups and DJ’s, security, merchandise and food. Their next meeting planned for July will be for a complete project plan and timeline. They are a very motivated and responsible group. A pleasure to work with.

The group is currently in the process of applying for grants to fund their planned events and are seeking a waiver of the hire fees for facilities required at MRC&LC as an in kind contribution to assist them.

The correspondence is not specific in regard to the area/rooms they are requesting to hire. It is assumed this is an outdoor event.

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The amount of revenue Council could waive is as follows:

Oval hire – community	
Friday (up to 4 hours) for set up	358.00
Saturday (up to 8 hours)	594.00
Sunday (up to 4 hours) for clean up	358.00
Kitchen hire (estimated requirement) \$22 x 6 hours	142.00
Total	\$1442.00

Plus a \$500 bond payable.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Potential loss of revenue of \$1442.00.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council endorse the request to waive all fees payable for the "Bring on Summer" music event to be held at MRC&LC as an in kind contribution towards youth activities in Merredin but, that Merredin Youth Voice be advised they are responsible for the all set up, cleaning and rubbish removal at their own cost.

31177 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr Wallace

Resolution

That Council endorse the request to waive all fees payable for the "Bring on Summer" music event to be held at MRC&LC as an in kind contribution towards youth activities in Merredin but, that Merredin Youth Voice be advised they are responsible for the all set up, cleaning and rubbish removal at their own cost and that the Shire be recognised as a major sponsor.

CARRIED 7/1

12.7 **ACTIVATE MERREDIN YOUTH ACTIVITIES – URBAN ART PROJECT**

Reporting Department:	Corporate and Community Services
Reporting Officer:	Evelyn Arnold
Author:	Marilyn Sayers
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Examples of urban art in other WA cities/Shires completed by Darren Hutchens, community artist. (Attachment 12.7A)

Background

One of the Activate Merredin projects is to deliver an urban art workshop for youth in the Shire of Merredin. A workshop of this nature delivers many skills for young people – taking responsibility and ownership of a public place, communication, self-worth, design and creativity.

Comment

The Community Liaison Officer has had several discussions with community groups – students, Merredin Fine Arts group, the TAFE art class and tutor who have expressed a wish to brighten up many spaces by painting the blank walls/buildings in the town.

To satisfy part of the community's desires in a small way, it is proposed to paint the fence around the "Lions Den" on the inside panels in urban art through offering a three day workshop to the whole community, facilitated by a professional artist. It is proposed to hold the workshop during the October school holidays. The Lions Club members have agreed to have the fence painted in urban art. It is possible to have some of the 2013 Banners in the Terrace artwork replicated onto the fence also.

Perth based Darren Hutchens is a community artist who has worked with young people in Metro and Regional WA to create urban art in public spaces. He has been recommended to facilitate the workshop by several CDO's and Wheatbelt RDA Youth Support workers throughout the Wheatbelt and is renowned for his work with youth and the professional outcomes. Examples of his work are attached.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The project will be funded through grants, Wheatbelt RDA and the Shire's youth activities budget 2013/14.

31178 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr McFarlane

Officer's Recommendation

That Council support an urban art project to paint the inside facing panels of fence around the Lion's Den on the corner of Throssell Road and Woolgar Avenue.

CARRIED 8/0

13.0 ADMINISTRATION

13.1 CUMMINS THEATRE – FEE WAIVER

Reporting Department:	Administration
Reporting Officer:	CEO
Author:	Lorraine Wyatt
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	FM 21/01
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Correspondence

Background

Correspondence was received from Merredin Fine Arts Society requesting an in kind contribution from the Shire for the hiring of Cummins Theatre for hosting of the biannual Wheatbelt Art Prize. A copy of the correspondence can be found at [Attachment 13.1A](#).

Comment

The event that is under consideration is a separate event to that which Council currently contributes by way of the Acquisition Art prize in the order of \$1000.00.

The Fine Arts Society successfully applied for a Community Funding Grant for the 2012/13 financial year totalling \$1480.00 however they did not submit one for the 2013/14 financial year.

On this occasion, the Fine Arts Society have offered to make a monetary donation to Council if the exhibition operates at a surplus. The amount of revenue potentially able to be raised from the event is as follows:

Theatre hire – more than 4 hours (community)	440.00	
Tivoli room hire – more than 4 hours (community)	181.50	
Kitchen hire – more than 4 hours (community)	88.00	
Total hire for the three days (Fri, Sat and Sun)		2128.50
Plus a refundable bond of \$500.00		

Council has had a number of telephone requests from a variety of community groups requesting a fee waiver or reduction and while not all of them are formalised in writing, it is fair to say that Council is not in a position to support them all in their entirety.

The three options available are:

Option 1 – Waive the fees and lose the revenue.

Option 2 - If Council resolves to waive the hire fees then consideration should be given to a request of the Fine Arts Society to pay a nominal amount towards utilities costs and for the commercial cleaning of the Theatre on vacation of the premises.

Option 3 – Council charges full hire fees as set out in the 2013/14 Fees and charges schedule.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Loss of revenue in the order of \$2128.50 plus utilities and cleaning costs.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council determines it's position and advises which option it chooses and in the event that option 2 is chosen, Council advises the amount to be charged to offset the utilities costs.

31179 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr McFarlane

Resolution

That option 2 as outlined above be adopted and that cost issues such as utilities and cleaning be delegated to staff to resolve.

CARRIED 5/3

Cr Crees requested that his vote be recorded in the negative.

13.2 **SALARIES & ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL – FEES ETC FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Reporting Department:	Administration
Reporting Officer:	CEO
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
File Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal on Local Government Elected Council Members (<u>Attachment 13.2A</u>)

Background

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has completed its review of fees, allowances and expenses for elected council members of Local Governments throughout Western Australia. The determination which will operate from 1 July 2013 establishes a scale of payments and provisions for reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

This is the first independent determination of fees, allowances and expenses which were set in 1996 and last adjusted in 2005. It brings levels of remuneration for elected council members into line with other States and also with the fees paid to Government Board and Committee members in Western Australia.

At the forefront of the Tribunal's deliberations has been the recognition of the important role local government plays in the community.

Comment

There are 138 Local Governments and 11 Regional Local Councils in Western Australia. In 2011-12 local governments accounted for operating and capital expenditure exceeding \$4.25 billion. There are 15,000 full time equivalent employees in the sector and 1245 elected council members. Local governments vary in size from 1.5 square kilometres suburban precincts to 371,693 square kilometre remote areas. Local governments are responsible for the planning and delivery of a broad range of services affecting the everyday lives of the community.

The Tribunal noted that it is vital that local governments attract capable and committed elected council members to provide leadership, expertise and good government at a community level.

After extensive consultation the Tribunal concluded that the 1996 framework of fees, allowances and expenses did not take into account the significant weight of responsibilities shouldered by elected council members, particularly in the large and most populated local governments.

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In establishing a new framework for the payment of fees, allowances and expenses, the Tribunal has adopted a banding model to differentiate between the responsibilities carried by Councillors, Mayors, Presidents and their deputies in local governments throughout the State. Provision has been made for reimbursement of expenses properly incurred in enabling elected council members to properly fulfil their duties.

The levels of remuneration for attending meetings and allowances for elected council members are not intended to be salaries but do take into account the responsibilities and commitments of elected council members serving as representatives of the community. Community service continues to be the cornerstone of a commitment to local government.

Under the existing structure of fees, allowances and expenses, Councillors could claim up to \$7000pa for Council and Committee meetings and Mayors and Presidents up to \$14,000pa. The annual allowance payable to Mayors and Presidents is from \$600pa up to \$12,000pa or 0.002 of the operating revenue of the local government, whichever is the greater amount, but in any case not more than \$60,000pa.

Deputies could receive up to 25% of this allowance. Expense allowances of \$2,400pa for telecommunications costs and \$1,000pa for Information Technology services are currently provided for under the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

From 1 July 2013 under the Tribunal's determination the banding structure for local governments provides for meeting fees within a range of \$3,500pa to \$30,000pa for Councillors and \$3,500pa to \$45,000pa for Mayors and Presidents. The Annual Allowance for Mayors and Presidents will extend from \$500pa to \$85,000pa within the four band structure. The same limit with respect to 0.2% of operating revenue and the entitlement to Deputies still applies. The Office of the Lord Mayor has been given special consideration.

Provision has been made to increase the Childcare allowance from \$20 to \$25 per hour and to combine the allowance for Information and Communication Technology costs up to \$3,500pa. There is a continuing provision for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in fulfilling the duties of an elected council member under Regulation 32.

Merredin has been classified as a Band 3 Council. It is recommended that an annual payment be made rather than the more cumbersome and costly meeting allowance methodology. Therefore the following arrangements will apply to the Merredin Shire Council in relation to Meeting Fees in accordance with Band 3 in the table below.

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For a council member other than the mayor or president			For a council member who holds the office of mayor or president	
Band	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$24,000	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$45,000
2	\$14,500	\$22,000	\$14,500	\$29,500
3	\$7,500	\$15,500	\$7,500	\$24,000
4	\$3,500	\$9,000	\$3,500	\$18,500

The Tribunal has also set fees for Shire Presidents and Mayors and their Deputies. These amounts are listed in the tables below and again Merredin has been classified as a Band 3 Council.

Annual allowance for a mayor or president of a local government For a mayor or president

Band	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$50,000	\$85,000
2	\$15,000	\$60,000
3	\$1,000	\$35,000
4	\$500	\$19,000

The amount payable to the Deputy has been determined as 25% of that payable to the President/Mayor.

In addition to the above, the Tribunal has stipulated that expenses incurred by elected members can either be reimbursed or paid by way of an annual allowance. These expenses relate primarily to ICT, child care and travel. The annual allowance for ICT is a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$3500 and travel has been set at \$50.

It has not been the practice of the Merredin Shire Council to claim for expenses and if it so resolves the matter should be referred back to staff for clarification should Council wish to allow reimbursement or alternatively Council could adopt the annual allowance provision.

Statutory/Policy Implications

The determination of the Tribunal is mandatory.

Financial Implications

Previously this Council has paid an annual allowance of \$4,000 for each Councillor and a further \$11,500 to the Shire President and \$2,500 to the Deputy Shire President.

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This can now increase from \$4,000 to \$7,500-\$15,500 for Councillors with up at an additional \$8,500 for the Shire President, and a range of \$1,000 to \$35,000 for the Shire President with the Deputy's allowance being 25% of that applicable to the Shire President.

This means that the annual Councillors allowance will increase from \$36,000 to a minimum of \$67,500. Consideration will need to be given to the additional meeting allowance for the Shire President (up to \$8,500), the Shire President's allowance (currently \$11,500 and now within the range of \$1,000-\$35,000) and that pertaining to the Deputy (25% of that of the Shire President).

Officer's Recommendation

That Council determines the allowances paid from 1 July 2013 under the determination of the Western Australian Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

31180 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Resolution

That Council determines the allowances paid from 1 July 2013 under the determination of the Western Australian Salaries and Allowances Tribunal shall be the minimum in band three being an annual allowance of \$7,500 for all Council members.

CARRIED 8/0

31181 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr Wallace

That the annual allowance for the Shire President be \$12,500, thus the annual allowance for the Deputy President be \$3,125.

CARRIED 7/1

16.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

17.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

18.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION

Councillor Crees declared a financial interest in item 18.1 Differential Rates Model, and left the meeting at 5.16pm

Councillor Anderson left the meeting at 5.17pm.

31182 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr Wallace
That standing orders be suspended at 5.19pm to allow further review and discussion of the budget.

CARRIED 6/0

Councillor Anderson returned to the meeting at 5.20pm.

Councillor Crees returned to the meeting to participate in the budget discussion at 5.23pm

81183 Moved: Cr Wallace Seconded: Cr M Morris
That standing orders resume at 6.03pm.

CARRIED 8/0

Councillor Crees left the meeting at 6.05pm.

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18.1 **DIFFERENTIAL RATES MODEL**

Reporting Department: Finance and Administration
Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold – Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services
Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Reference: RV 07/01
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments:

Background

On 19th June 2013 Council advertised the intention to differentially rate some properties classified as Unimproved Value. The proposed changes are set out below:

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$868	\$0.014902
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$868	\$0.019861
UV3 – Mining	\$139	\$0.029804
UV4 - Special Zone Wind farm	\$1,157	\$0.029804
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,157	\$0.029804
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$868	\$0.029804

Statutory Implications

Section 6.36 Local Government Act 1995 allows for local governments to differentially rate properties.

Comment

A community consultation period was advertised. This closed on the 12th July 2013. Council received no written submissions objecting to the model.

In adopting this model ministerial approval is not required because the differentially rated properties are rated no more than double the non-differentially rated properties once the annual increase has been applied.

Financial Implications

Adopting the differential model as advertised would result in rates revenue in accordance with the draft budget.

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31184 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Wallace

Officer's Recommendation

That Council adopt the differential rates model as advertised to be effective for the 2013/14 rates year.

CARRIED 7/0

Cr Crees returned to the meeting at 6.10pm

19.0 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

20.0 CLOSURE

Note: A special Council meeting will be held on Friday 19 July 2013 for the purpose of adopting the 2013/2014 budget.

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 6.11pm.