



SHIRE OF  
**MERREDIN**  
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

# MINUTES

## Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers  
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin  
Tuesday 18 December 2018



## Common Acronyms Used in this Document

CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media & Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils

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Shire of Merredin  
Ordinary Council Meeting  
Tuesday 18 December 2018



**1. Official Opening**

The President welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 3.02pm.

**2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence**

**Councillors:**

Cr KA Hooper	President
Cr BJ Anderson	
Cr LN Boehme	
Cr AR Butler	
Cr RM Crees	
Cr MA Crisafio	
Cr JR Flockart	
Cr PR Patroni	

**Staff**

G Powell	CEO
K Bartley	DCEO
V Green	EA to CEO

**Members of the Public:** Nil

**Apologies:** Cr MD Willis

**Approved Leave of Absence:** Nil

**3. Public Question Time**

Nil

**4. Disclosure of Interest**

Councillors Butler and Patroni declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 15.1 as members of the Merredin Men's Shed.

**5. Applications for Leave of Absence**

Nil

**6. Petitions and Presentations**

Nil

## 7. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meetings

7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 November 2018

### [Attachment 7.1A](#)

#### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

#### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Flockart

**Seconded:** Cr Crees

**82286** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 November 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**CARRIED 8/o**

## 8. Announcements by the Person Presiding without discussion

The President commented that it was good to see Councillor Patroni present following his recent visit to hospital. The President also passed on his best wishes to Councillor Anderson for his father's recent surgery, and his deepest sympathies to the Mottershead family on the loss of their son.

## 9. Matters for which the Meeting may be closed to the public

19.1 Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre – Belgravia Leisure – Minor Amendments to Appendices within Contract

Refer to [Page 32](#) for the resolution of this Item.

## 10. Receipt of Minutes of Committee Meetings

10.1 CEACA Inc Annual General Meeting held on 14 November 2018

### [Attachment 10.1A](#)

10.2 CEACA Inc Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2018

### [Attachment 10.2A](#)

10.3 GECZ Meeting held on 29 November 2018

### [Attachment 10.3A](#)

10.4 Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2018

### [Attachment 10.4A](#)

#### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

#### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Boehme

**Seconded:** Cr Flockart

**82287** That the Minutes of the Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc Annual General Meeting held on 14 November 2018, the Central East Aged Care Alliance Inc Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2018, the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 29 November 2018 and the Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2018 be received.

CARRIED 8/o

## 11. Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council consideration

11.1 Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2018

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority  Absolute Majority

## 6.1 CEO's Review of Risk Management, Internal Control and Legislative Compliance and Risk Management Governance Framework

### Committee's Resolution

Moved: Cr Flockart Seconded: Cr Boehme

**82285** That the Audit Committee:

1. receives the Chief Executive Officer's review of the Regulation 17 Report consisting of Shire of Merredin's Risk Management, Internal Controls and Legislative Compliance report as presented in Attachment 6.1A;
2. receives the Chief Executive Officer's review the Shire of Merredin Risk Dashboard Report as presented in Attachment 6.1B; and
3. recommends adoption of the Chief Executive Officer's review of the Regulation 17 Report consisting of Shire of Merredin's Risk Management, Internal Controls and Legislative Compliance report and the Shire of Merredin Risk Dashboard Report by Council.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 4/o

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority  Absolute Majority

### Council Resolution

Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr Patroni

**82288** That:

1. the Chief Executive Officer's review of the Regulation 17 Report consisting of Shire of Merredin's Risk Management, Internal Controls and Legislative Compliance report as presented in Attachment 6.1A be adopted; and

- 2. the Chief Executive Officer's review the Shire of Merredin Risk Dashboard Report as presented in Attachment 6.1B be adopted.**

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0**



**12. Officer's Reports - Development Services**

Nil items to report.

**13. Officer's Reports - Engineering Services**

Nil items to report.

**14. Officers Reports – Corporate and Community Services**

**14.1 List of Accounts Paid**

<h2>Corporate Services</h2>		 <b>SHIRE OF MERREDIN</b> INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Charlie Brown, EMCS	
<b>Author:</b>	As above	
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>	
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 14.1A</a> - List of Accounts Paid	

**Purpose of Report**

- Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The attached List of Accounts Paid during the month of November 2018 under Delegated Authority is provided for Council’s information.

**Comment**

Nil

**Policy Implications**

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

**Statutory Implications**

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

**Strategic Implications**

**Strategic Community Plan**

Zone: Zone 4 – Communication and Leadership  
 Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its community and leads by example

Key Priority: 4.1 – Ensuring all planning, reporting and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements

**Corporate Business Plan**

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations

Directorate: Corporate Services

Timeline: Ongoing

**Sustainability Implications**

**Strategic Resource Plan**

Nil

**Workforce Plan**

Directorate: Nil

Activity: Nil

Current Staff: Nil

Focus Area: Nil

Strategy Code: Nil

Strategy: Nil

Implications: Nil

**Risk Implications**

Council would be contravening the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* if this item was not presented to Council.

**Financial Implications**

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

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Officer's Recommendation / Resolution**

**Moved:** Cr Crees

**Seconded:** Cr Flockart

**82289** That the schedule of accounts paid as listed covering cheques, electronic funds transfers, bank charges, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$2,170,332.85 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account and \$546.46 from Council's Trust Account, be endorsed.

**CARRIED 8/o**

**14.2 Statement of Financial Activity**

<h2>Corporate Services</h2>		 <p><b>SHIRE OF          MERREDIN</b>  <small>INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT</small></p>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Charlie Brown, EMCS	
<b>Author:</b>	As above	
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>	
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 14.2A</a> - Statement of Financial Activity	

**Purpose of Report**

- Executive Decision
  Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The Statement of Financial Activity, which includes the Detailed Schedules, Statement of Financial Position, Current Ratios and Investment Register, are attached for Council’s information.

**Comment**

Operating Income and Expenditure is consistent with Council’s YTD Budget, with Operating Income 2% up on budget estimates and Expenditure estimates also showing a 5% variance.

Explanations at Program level, where possible, is held at Note 2.

A detailed listing can be seen in the attachment.

As can be seen on page 3 of the Monthly Financial Report there is very little difference between this year’s position and the same period last year. Unrestricted cash is well down, but is to be expected as CEACA funds are expended.

**Capital Expenditure**

A detailed look at capital expenditure can be found in Note 13.

**Policy Implications**

Nil

## Statutory Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

## Strategic Implications

### Strategic Community Plan

Zone: Zone 4 – Communication and Leadership  
Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its community and leads by example  
Key Priority: 4.1 – Ensuring all planning, reporting and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements

### Corporate Business Plan

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations  
Directorate: Corporate Services  
Timeline: Ongoing

## Sustainability Implications

### Strategic Resource Plan

Compliance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and to give Council some direction in regards to its management of finance over an extended period of time.

### Workforce Plan

Directorate: Nil  
Activity: Nil  
Current Staff: Nil  
Focus Area: Nil  
Strategy Code: Nil  
Strategy: Nil  
Implications: Nil

## Risk Implications

The Financial Activity Report is presented monthly, providing a retrospective picture of Shire activities. Contained within the report is information pertaining to the financial cost and delivery of strategic initiatives and key projects.

In order to mitigate the risk of budget over-runs or non-delivery of projects, the CEO has implemented internal control measures such as regular Council and management reporting and a quarterly process to monitor financial performance against budget estimates.

Materiality reporting thresholds have been established at half the adopted Council levels, which equate to \$10,000 for operating budget line items and \$10,000 for capital items, to alert management prior to there being irreversible impacts.

It should also be noted that there is an inherent level of risk of misrepresentation of the financials through either human error or potential fraud. The establishment of control measures through a series of efficient systems, policies and procedures, which fall under the responsibility of the CEO as laid out in Regulation 5 of the *Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996*, seek to mitigate the possibility of this occurring. These controls are set in place to provide daily, weekly and monthly checks to ensure that the integrity of the data provided is reasonably assured.

#### Financial Implications

The adoption of the Monthly Financial Report is retrospective. Accordingly, the financial implications associated with adopting the Report are nil.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

#### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Butler

**Seconded:** Cr Crisafio

**82290** That in accordance with Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the Statement of Financial Activity and the Investment Report for the period ending 30 November 2018 be received.

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/o**

**14.3 Integrated Planning and Reporting – Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022 - Quarterly Review December 2018**

<h2>Corporate Services</h2>		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Kellie Bartley, DCEO	
<b>Author:</b>	As above	
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>	
<b>File Reference:</b>	IPR Suite of Plans	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 14.3A</a> – Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022 - Quarterly Review December 2018	

**Purpose of Report**

- Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The Shire’s Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022 demonstrates how the objectives of the Shire’s Strategic Community Plan will be achieved. The *Local Government Act 1995* requires local government to plan for the future of their district.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) planning and monitoring cycle is continuous. The planning cycle requires all local governments to undertake a major Strategic Review in the first four years. This meant the Shire of Merredin’s first Strategic Review was undertaken in 2015/16. Council recently revised the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan. Council adopted the review of IPR Suite of Plans to include the:

1. Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022;
2. Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028;
3. Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2031; and
4. Workforce Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19.

**Comment**

With the implementation of the suite of plans, monitoring is undertaken through the IPR Process Plan outlining Merredin’s Baseline Report to include:

1. Key Zones;
2. Strategic Goals;



3. Key Priorities;
4. Strategies; and
5. Key Actions.

The Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022 - Quarterly Review December 2018 is presented to Council for its perusal.

#### Policy Implications

Nil

#### Statutory Implications

It is a requirement to produce a plan for the future under Section 5.56 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1995*. The IPR Framework was introduced in Western Australia as part of the State Government's Local Government Reform Program.

#### Strategic Implications

##### ➤ Strategic Community Plan

Zone: Communication & Leadership  
Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its Community and leads by example  
Key Priority: Ensuring all planning, reporting and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements

##### ➤ Corporate Business Plan

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations  
Directorate: Corporate Services  
Timeline: Ongoing

#### Sustainability Implications

##### ➤ Strategic Resource Plan

The Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2031 outlines the Shire of Merredin's long term financial commitments and strategies to manage Council's assets.

##### ➤ Workforce Plan

Directorate: Chief Executive Officer  
Activity: All Activity Areas  
Current Staff: 47  
Focus Area: All Focus Areas  
Strategy Code: AR  
Strategy: Attraction and Retention  
Implications: It is anticipated that the workforce will remain the same

### Risk Implications

The adoption, implementation and monitoring of the IPR Suite of Plans provides a mechanism to:

1. Deliver accountable and measureable outcomes;
2. Deliver services and manage assets that can sustain the community; and
3. Management of systems with the rigour of process and integrity of data to accurately reflect asset management costs.

### Financial Implications

There are financial implications to Council in relation to this item as the suite of plans recognises outcomes. Identified outcomes from the IPR Suite of Plans are factored into the Council's Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2031.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Boehme

**Seconded:** Cr Butler

**82291** That the Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022 - Quarterly Review December 2018, as presented in Attachment 14.3A, be received.

**CARRIED 8/o**

**14.4 Aspiring Westralia Granite Way Geopark**

<h2>Community Services</h2>		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Kellie Bartley, DCEO	
<b>Author:</b>	Robyn McCarthy, Manager CWVC	
<b>Legislation:</b>	Nil	
<b>File Reference:</b>	VC/6/1	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<p><a href="#"><u>Attachment 14.4A</u></a> – WA Granite Way Geopark Report</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Attachment 14.4B</u></a> – Geoparks WA Membership form</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Attachment 14.4C</u></a> – Letter for Developing the Aspiring Westralia Granite Way Geopark Concept</p>	

**Purpose of Report**

Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The “Aspiring Westralia Granite Way Geopark” proposal is expanding on the targeted area for the existing Granite Way opened in August 2014, (a self-drive trail taking in Kokerbin Rock, Mt Caroline and Mt Stirling and the redevelopment of the old town site of Kwolyin to a RV camp site) by offering the Shires of Merredin and Cunderdin to join the current Granite Way Local Government Authorities (LGAs) of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin and Quairading. This project would include the Great Eastern Highway LGAs of Cunderdin with Meckering at the western entrance and Merredin at the eastern entrance. Additional LGAs may be included subject to further discussion.

The LGAs of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin and Quairading have provided invaluable support for this geopark research project. The early participating LGAs have shown considerable support for the geopark concept noting their appeal as experiential geological tours and potential for job creation and sustainable eco-tourism.

In terms of developing a geopark, most early participant stakeholders held the opinion that any form of tourism promotion that brings tourists and visitors to regional towns is a positive process.

There are already geoheritage features developed and interpreted within the Shire of Merredin such as Merredin Peak and Totadgin Rock. These already have access roads and National Trust WA interpretation signage. Other important supportive geopark features within the proposed Wheatbelt Geopark are the salt lakes and palaeochannels, Aboriginal cultural history and European heritage, fauna and flora biodiversity.

#### Comment

The Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre Manager and Councillor Julie Flockart attended a workshop at Quairading in November 2018 that identified the outcomes of the “Aspiring Westralia Granite Way Geopark”. Recommendations towards the targeted area for the project are to be expanded to include Cunderdin (with Meckering as the western entrance), Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Quairading, Tammin, Merredin (as the eastern entrance) and Kondinin (for Wave Rock). Additional adjacent LGAs may be included subject to further investigation.

The proposed Granite Way Geopark can offer visitors a geotourism experience within the case study area. With geology of the granites being only part of it, there is the biodiversity of the flora and fauna, Aboriginal cultural tours and pioneering history museums and sites to offer a complete visitor package.

There are already many existing self-drive and walking trails and well interpreted sites in this area. There are potential business opportunities for group accommodation attracting special interest groups and an opportunity for LGA’s to be part of a holistic geotourism package for the region.

There was also an offer for the LGAs to become a member of Geoparks WA. Mr Briggs has set up the WA branch of geoparks – Geoparks WA - under the Geological Society of Australia (GSAWA). The name of the Association is Geoparks WA Incorporated.

#### **Objects and Purposes**

1. To support and promote the development of geoparks, geotourism and geotrails with a focus in Western Australia;
2. To facilitate marketing collectives for geoparks, geotourism and geotrails;
3. To encourage stakeholder participation and collaboration in the establishment of geoparks, geotourism and geotrails in Western Australia; and
4. To co-operate with like-minded entities and individuals in promoting all aspects of tourism visitation related to geological aspects of our Western Australian environment.

Federal and State government do not currently support geoparks and a review of their policies is required to encourage support for geoparks given their global tourism appeal and opportunity for international exposure, particularly in developing sustainable tourism.

The Shire of Mt Magnet is a positive example of how they realised the potential for geotourism in the region with the oldest gold mining history in WA, granite rocks, night skies, aboriginal culture and pastoral history. They saw an opportunity when the Mid-West Development Commission (MWDC) was writing the Blueprint, so they engaged the author to pick up on the potential of the geology of the Murchison to develop key tourism projects to work on. By re-branding Mt Magnet as a 'Geo Hub of the Murchison', the seven Murchison LGAs are marketed as a natural geopark with Mt Magnet as the Geo Hub with a new annual event 'Astro Rocks Fest' attracting more visitors to the region.

Some existing competitive advantages for WEROC LGAs that could potentially complement a geopark concept include:

1. The ability to use resources effectively and generate greater value for visitors than the surrounding competitors.
  - a. Proximity to Perth – day trips to overnight 1-3 days;
  - b. Hub regional Visitor Centre in Merredin call to action;
  - c. All season and diverse cultural and recreational activities – history, museums, many free camping sites at granite rocks;
  - d. Value-adding through local knowledge and expertise - special interest groups, Aboriginal cultural tours; and
  - e. Established regional Eastern Wheatbelt Holiday planner.
2. The natural and heritage resources available to a destination and the region's advantage over surrounding competitors as a result.
  - a. Varied scenic landscapes and diverse natural amenity – existing self-drive trails linking granite outcrops, agricultural landscapes, wildflowers, many town nature reserves and salt lakes;
  - b. Built heritage - Cummins Theatre, water pipeline, railway & military sites;
  - c. Aboriginal heritage - Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Cultural Tours, significant cultural sites;
  - d. Astronomy – Wheatbelt night skies free from light pollution; and
  - e. Internationally/nationally recognised natural icons – Wave Rock, Kokerbin Rock, Helena and Aurora Ranges.

<b>Policy Implications</b>
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Nil

<b>Statutory Implications</b>
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Nil

<b>Strategic Implications</b>
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➤ <a href="#">Strategic Community Plan</a>
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Zone: Zone 2 – Economy and Growth

Zone Statement: Merredin seeks new opportunities for growth and strives to develop a rich and multifaceted economy  
Key Priority: 2.4 – Facilitating and strengthening the development of local and regional tourism

➤ **Corporate Business Plan**

Key Action: 2.4.1 – Showcase Merredin with improved visibility and promotion through initiatives  
2.4.2 – Collaborate with tourism stakeholders to increase the tourism profile of Merredin and the wider region

Directorate: Community Services

Timeline: Ongoing

**Sustainability Implications**

➤ **Strategic Resource Plan**

Nil

➤ **Workforce Plan**

Directorate: Nil  
Activity: Nil  
Current Staff: Nil  
Focus Area: Nil  
Strategy Code: Nil  
Strategy: Nil  
Implications: Nil

**Risk Implications**

The risk to Council would only be defined by the outcomes of further stages should Council decided to participate. The benefits for the region and for the Shire of Merredin are identified as low risk.

**Financial Implications**

Membership to Geoparks WA is currently free however there may be membership fee involved into the future should this concept be considered to be supported by the LGAs.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Officer's Recommendation**

**Moved:** Cr Crees

**Seconded:** Cr Butler

That:

1. the report from the WA Granite Way Geopark as presented in Attachment 14.4A be noted;

2. the Chief Executive Officer be requested to liaise with the working group with the aim of promoting sustainable development of geotourism within the region; and
3. the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to register for membership to the Geoparks WA.

### Amendment

**Moved:** Cr Flockart

**Seconded:** Cr Boehme

**82292** That Part 3 of the motion be amended to include the word “free” between “for” and “membership”.

**4/4**

**The Presiding Member exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion**

**CARRIED 5/4**

**The amendment become the motion and was put**

### Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Crees

**Seconded:** Cr Butler

**82293** **That:**

1. the report from the WA Granite Way Geopark as presented in Attachment 14.4A be noted;
2. the Chief Executive Officer be requested to liaise with the working group with the aim of promoting sustainable development of geotourism within the region; and
3. the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to register for free membership to the Geoparks WA.

**CARRIED 7/1**

### Reason

Council wished to stipulate there was no fee incurred for membership.

**14.5 Proposed Art Project – Apex Park (WA Police and Wheatbelt Youth Council)**

<h2>Community Services</h2>		 SHIRE OF <b>MERREDIN</b> INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Kellie Bartley, DCEO	
<b>Author:</b>	Adim Hajat, Community Liaison Officer	
<b>Legislation:</b>	Nil	
<b>File Reference:</b>	CS/16/11	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 14.5A</a> – WA Police Project Budget 2018 <a href="#">Attachment 14.5B</a> – Letters of Support <a href="#">Attachment 14.5C</a> – Proposal Art Project - Drug Aware YCulture Regional 2018	

**Purpose of Report**

Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The Shire has been actively engaging with young people and is a representative on the newly formed Wheatbelt Youth Council (WYC). Other agency representatives include Merredin Police, Avon Youth, Merredin TAFE, Merredin College and Merredin Community Resource Centre. The commitment to youth programs has prompted a positive collaboration with other agencies as a result.

Merredin Police are actively supporting youth projects in Merredin and seek the support of Council towards a proposed Youth Art Project situated at the undercover shelter at Apex Park.

Initial investigations of a suitable location for the youth art work was conducted and found that the undercover shelter at Apex Park, which is in close proximity to the skate park, is the ideal blank canvas for the proposed project.

As the undercover shelter is a public space and Shire infrastructure, the artwork designs will need to be approved by Council.

The local Merredin Police Officer, Ms Brooke Watson and the Shire’s Community Liaison Officer Mr Adim Hajat have submitted a grant proposal to Country Arts WA. All information has been transparent and the draft proposal with supporting documentation has been supported by the Chief Executive Officer and WA Police.



Ms Watson has applied to Country Arts WA under the Drug Aware YCulture Regional Program on behalf of the artist. The grant funds will need an auspice organisation and since the proposed project is owned by the Shire it would seem the logical supporting organisation.

The funds can cover project costs including artist fees, artist travel and accommodation, materials, promotional costs, documentation including photography and videography, equipment hire and venue hire.

In 2018 the Shire has worked with Merredin Police and Avon Youth on a number of youth projects including the Demolition Derby cars which competed in Kellerberrin, and quite recently the Purple Bench Project to encourage and support the youths in Merredin to participate, work in a team environment and build on their leadership skills.

#### Comment

The Drug Aware - Street Art Workshop will be a 3-day street art workshop in which youth will be guided through the design and creation of four murals (2x8 metres) in a local park/skate park in Merredin. The project will be set for approximately 16 January 2019 during the school holidays, between 10-3pm. The project aims to have 16 youth participating, between the ages of 12-17 years.

The lead artist who will mentor and help guide the local youths in the workshops is Brandon Watson. Brandon is primarily a digital artist whose artwork "Change" was displayed in the Young Originals Exhibition (2017) and the Art Gallery of Western Australia's Year 12 Perspectives Gallery for 2018. He won 1st place in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Art Prize.

Brandon also volunteered for the Kalgoorlie Boulder Heart Walk street mural event, in which he worked alongside Brenton See and Fudge of Fudge Works, assisting in completing their murals for the event. Given this he has a strong understanding of the process required to complete a mural and will be mentoring the youth through this, and the artistic process will be as follows:

1. Prior to commencement engage with WA Police, Council, Wheatbelt Youth Council and relevant agencies to identify a design concept for the project.
2. Day 1 will be the design day, in which the group meets and discusses the mural designs. Brandon with input from the working group will be creating the designs beforehand, there will be room for youth to provide their own artistic input within the final design. Pre-completing the designs will allow for maximum painting time, and resolve the difficulty of including up to 16 youth, with different ideas and perspectives in the design process. Discussion will be had about the drug awareness message and how it can be incorporated into the design of the mural. Youth will be guided through the requirements and logistics of creating the mural/s by the artist. Discussion will be around the consensual creation of street art and the difference between street art and graffiti. If enough progress is made on day one, the outline of the design can be laid out on the surface chosen and painting can begin.

3. Day 2 will see painting continue. The artist will guide the youth through the painting method. The bulk of painting will be completed on this day.
4. Day 3 will involve final details on the murals, and in the afternoon the finished piece will be revealed to the public. Available at the reveal will be some refreshments and photographs to be taken of the finished piece. The aim of the project is to facilitate discussion around drug awareness with local youth, while teaching them how to express an idea artistically through street art. The local Police will be involved in the project through all stages and provide support.

The Drug Aware YCulture Regional grant from Country Arts WA is available throughout the year to support skills development for young people, including but not limited to workshops and masterclasses across any art form – encompassing music, all forms of visual art, costume design, scriptwriting, textiles, street art, theatre performance, film, dance, photography, new media and animation.

The Drug Aware YCulture Regional project that is proposed is driven entirely by the youth of Merredin under the auspices of the Shire. The young applicants write the application, put together a budget, coordinate artists, manage logistics and submit the acquittal processes.

#### **Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Statutory Implications**

Nil

#### **Strategic Implications**

##### ➤ **Strategic Community Plan**

Zone: Zone 4 – Community and Culture

Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its community and leads by example

Key Priority: 4.2 – Council engaging broadly and proactively with the community

##### ➤ **Corporate Business Plan**

Key Action: 1.6.1 - Support community groups to deliver activities and services to the Community effectively and sustainably

Directorate: Community Services

Timeline: 2018/19

#### **Sustainability Implications**

##### ➤ **Strategic Resource Plan**

Nil

➤ **Workforce Plan**

Directorate: Nil  
Activity: Nil  
Current Staff: Nil  
Focus Area: Nil  
Strategy Code: Nil  
Strategy: Nil  
Implications: Nil

**Risk Implications**

Public space artwork requires the input from Council on the design that reflects both the youth input and that of a community space.

**Financial Implications**

If Council decides this is the appropriate location for the youth community artworks there will be minor cleaning to prepare the surface. The project cannot proceed until the grant funds are received.

The ongoing maintenance of the building will be as per the Apex Park maintenance budget.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Officer's Recommendation / Resolution**

**Moved:** Cr Boehme

**Seconded:** Cr Crisafio

**82294 That:**

1. the proposed artwork project and its location at the undercover shelter in Apex Park be supported;
2. Councillor Flockart be nominated to represent Council on the proposed Artwork Project;
3. the auspicing of the Drug Aware YCulture Regional Grant for Country Arts WA as presented in Attachment 14.5C be endorsed; and
4. the Shire of Merredin provide the cleaning and preparation works at the undercover shelter at Apex Park prior to undertaking the art project.

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/o**

**15. Officer's Reports – Administration**

Councillors Butler and Patroni declared an Impartiality Interest in this item.

**15.1 Merredin Men's Shed – Request for Financial Support – Old Town Hall Clock**

<h2>Administration</h2>		
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Greg Powell, CEO	
<b>Author:</b>	Vanessa Green, EA to CEO	
<b>Legislation:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>	
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil	
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 15.1A</a> - Correspondence	

**Purpose of Report**

- Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

Correspondence has been received from the Merredin Men's Shed (MMS) requesting financial support from Council of \$7,250 for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the Town Hall Clock.

The request came following a successful grant application submitted by the Shire to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Durack Stronger Communities Program.

Following a meeting with MMS representatives, the CEO sought comment from Council on whether it supported making a contribution to the project. The feedback received was positive and in favour of the request, so long as a funding source for the contribution could be identified.

**Comment**

There are no funds included in the 2018/19 Budget for the project as the grant program was not available at the time of the budget's development and adoption, with the grant application being submitted at the end of September.

Council has some options in identifying a source for a contribution to the project.

### **Option 1 – 2018/19 Budget Review**

While the review is yet to be conducted, in accordance with Regulation 33A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, between 1 January and 31 March in each financial year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year. Depending on the outcome of the review, it may be possible for funds to be identified either through savings, additional revenue, or from projects which will not proceed (i.e. those which were dependent on external grant funding, the application for which was unsuccessful).

### **Option 2 - 2019/20 Community Funding Program**

In accordance with Policy 3.19 – Community Funding, each year Council calls for submissions from community groups with approved projects/submissions being allocated funds in the forthcoming budget. While the timeframe for expenditure and acquittal of the grant funding is not yet known it may be possible for the MMS to make a submission for funding in the 2019/20 Budget as part of the Community Funding process.

As Option 2 is likely to be a longer process and may require a request for an extension of the grant agreement, Option 1 is considered the preferred choice and the Officer's Recommendation acknowledges this. While this outcome doesn't provide the MMS with a firm decision on whether Council will contribute to the project, it allows for the matter to be further considered sooner rather than later.

Should Council resolve to contribute to the project it is recommended that this be done on the proviso that the MMS are wholly responsible for any ongoing costs which may be associated in maintaining the clock to a workable condition. Additionally, any such maintenance etc should be undertaken with minimal disturbance to the occupier of the building.

#### **Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Statutory Implications**

Section 6.8 of the Local Government Act 1995 states:

#### **“6.8. Expenditure from municipal fund not included in annual budget**

- (1) *A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure —*
  - (a) *is incurred in a financial year before the adoption of the annual budget by the local government; or*
  - (b) *is authorised in advance by resolution\*; or*
  - (c) *is authorised in advance by the mayor or president in an emergency.*

*\*Absolute majority required.*

(1a) *In subsection (1) —*

**additional purpose** means a purpose for which no expenditure estimate is included in the local government’s annual budget.”

### Strategic Implications

#### ➤ Strategic Community Plan

Zone: Zone 1 – Community and Culture  
Zone Statement: Merredin is rich in cultural diversity, performing and fine arts and a variety of sports available for both residents and visitors  
Key Priority: 1.2 – Protecting and promoting the diverse culture and heritage of the Merredin region  
1.6 – Supporting and strengthening community groups and volunteers

#### ➤ Corporate Business Plan

Key Action: 1.2.1 – Support the preservation and promotion of heritage buildings and significant sites to include artefacts and memorabilia  
Directorate: Development Services  
Timeline: Ongoing

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Key Action: 1.6.2 – Support community groups that recognise and celebrate positive community achievements  
Directorate: Community Services  
Timeline: Ongoing

### Sustainability Implications

#### ➤ Strategic Resource Plan

Nil

#### ➤ Workforce Plan

Directorate: Nil  
Activity: Nil  
Current Staff: Nil  
Focus Area: Nil  
Strategy Code: Nil  
Strategy: Nil  
Implications: Nil

### Risk Implications

There is a low risk to Council.

Should funds not be identified in the budget review it would be up to the MMS to identify other funding sources, with the successful grant funding being returned to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Similarly, it is suggested that any future/ongoing costs associated with operating and maintaining the clock will be the responsibility of the MMS.

However, the clock could be considered by some members of the community as an important part of Merredin's history and heritage and as such there may be a reputational risk to Council should it choose not to contribute to the project.

### Financial Implications

Should Council resolve to support the request an allocation of \$7,250 will be required.

There are no funds currently allocated in the 2018/19 Budget for this project, however as mentioned above, this may be considered as part of the mid-year budget review process.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Crisafio

**Seconded:** Cr Anderson

**82295** That, subject to sufficient funding of up to \$7,250 being identified in the mid-year budget review, Council make a contribution of the same amount to the Merredin Men's Shed for the purpose of refurbishing the Old Town Hall Clock, on the condition that the Merredin Men's Shed are wholly responsible for all ongoing costs which may be associated in maintaining the clock to a workable condition, and that any such maintenance etc should be undertaken with minimal disturbance to the occupier of the building.

**CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/o**

**16. Motions of which Previous Notice has been given**

Nil

**17. Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given**

Nil

**18. Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision**

Nil

**19. Matters Behind Closed Doors**

In accordance with Section 5.23(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* Council went Behind Closed Doors to discuss a contact entered into by the local government.

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Resolution**

**Moved:** Cr Patroni

**Seconded:** Cr Crisafio

**82296 That Council move Behind Closed Doors at 3.47pm.**

**CARRIED 8/0**

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

**Resolution**

**Moved:** Cr Anderson

**Seconded:** Cr Crisafio

**82297 That Council return from Behind Closed Doors at 3.50pm.**

**CARRIED 8/0**

19.1 Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre – Belgravia Leisure – Minor Amendments to Appendices within Contract

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority



## Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Crisafio

**Seconded:** Cr Patroni

**82298 That:**

1. the defined map as detailed in the appendix index as presented in Attachments 19.1A (Appendix index) and 19.1G (the defined map) be accepted;
2. the minor amendment to Shire Building Maintenance Schedule to include the "Big Ass Fans" as presented in Attachment 19.1B (Appendices 1) be accepted;
3. the minor amendments to Building and Ground Maintenance and Replacement Schedule for the responsibility for Associations and Clubs as presented in Attachment 19.1D (Appendices 3) be accepted;
4. the minor amendments to include the "Indoor Play Centre" as detailed in the Property Inventory as presented in Attachment 19.1E (Appendices 4) be accepted; and
5. the Kidsafe WA report as presented in Attachment 19.1H be accepted.

**CARRIED 8/o**

## 20. Closure

There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance, wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and declared the meeting closed at 3.52pm.