

**MINUTES – ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING  
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2006**

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Minutes for the Shire of Merredin Annual Electors Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Cnr King/Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 21 November 2006.

**ATTENDANCE :** Cr KA Hooper – Shire President  
Cr RM Crees – Deputy Shire President  
Cr W Wallace, Cr G Astbury, Cr J Simmonds, Cr J Jones,  
Cr M Morris, Cr J Townrow, Cr D Morley.

Messrs F Ludovico, Chief Executive Officer;  
JA McGovern, Deputy Chief Executive Officer;  
W Bow, Manager of Development Services;  
J Garrett, Acting Manager of Works  
AM Peters, T Martin, E Hooper.

**ELECTORS :** Debbie Morris, Mike Dorizzi, Roger Drakeford, Les Last,  
Victor London.

**1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING**  
The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

**2.0 APOLOGIES**  
Cr N Hooper, Cr S Marley

**3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**  
Moved R Drakeford seconded Cr Crees  
*That the minutes of the 2005 Annual Electors meeting held on 20 December 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

**CARRIED**

Business arising from previous minutes

Moved R Drakeford seconded Cr Crees  
*That the name P Marley recorded as an apology be amended to read S Marley.*

**CARRIED**

R Drakeford queried whether the Cummins Theatre Electrical Upgrade had been completed.

W Bow advised that up to \$16,000 of electrical work had been completed at the end of 2005.

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**4.0 ANNUAL REPORT**

Shire President Ken Hooper presented his report to the meeting.  
Moved R Drakeford seconded Cr Simmonds  
*That the Shire President's report for 2005/2006 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Chief Executive Officer Frank Ludovico presented his report to the meeting.  
Moved Cr Crees seconded Cr Wallace  
*That the Chief Executive Officer's report for 2005/2006 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**6.0 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chief Executive Officer presented the Annual Financial Report to the meeting.  
Moved Cr Simmonds seconded Cr Townrow  
*That the 2005/2006 Annual Financial Report be received.*

**CARRIED**

**7.0 QUESTIONS ARISING FROM ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

R Drakeford queried why the Annual Financial Report for 2005/2006 did not contain the signature of the Shire President.

CEO noted that the original is signed.

**8.0 AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The CEO provided details of the Auditor's qualification.

Staff had not submitted the Annual Budget on time being delayed by seven (7) days. Staff would ensure this error did not occur again.

In respect of the loan, staff did advertise the loan on 7 September 2005. As no comments were received staff drew down the loan without further reference to Council.

Section 6.20 of the Local Government Act does not require the matter to be referred back to Council. Contrast this with Section 3.58 (3) Local Government Act where it specifically states after advertising Council needs to determine any submissions.

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It is noted that it could be considered normal practice to refer the matter back to Council to determine prior to drawing down the loan.

Moved Cr Morley seconded Cr Jones  
*That the Auditor's Report for 2005/2006 be received.*

**CARRIED**

**9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

CEO advised that a letter had been received from Mr Les Last.  
Both Mr Last's letter and CEO's response can be viewed at Attachment1.

Mr Last

Mr Last indicated that there was a lack of morale within the Shire of Merredin due to the low number of attendees at the Electors meeting.

The President countered by suggesting it was difficult to determine what the state of morale was as the low attendance could not be interpreted one way or the other.

Visitors Centre

The opening hours are 10am to 4pm with the Manager usually available from 7.45am onwards.

WE-ROC have agreed to provide some funding towards the Visitors Centre.

Cr Morris indicated that there are many tourists travelling to Merredin.

Council believes that the Visitor's Centre produces many benefits for the town.

Victor London

Suggested there should be more thought put into accessibility for gopher facilities around the streets of Merredin. Eg ramps and parking areas outside of IGA store.

CEO indicated that Council could consider the options.

Roger Drakeford

Questioned how many apprentices does the Shire of Merredin employ?

CEO responded advising the Shire employs one apprentice mechanic, has one indigenous trainee at the Visitors Centre and one trainee at Cummins Theatre.

Wheatbelt Mercury

Council is recommencing its monthly newsletter in December 2006.

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Victor London

Questioned the credentials of the previous CEO. The anomalies in the differential rating system had caused a breach of the Act for three years.

CEO indicated that a Departmental report had revealed these anomalies and Council had corrected them. Firstly it had requested and received The Governor of Western Australia's approval to validate the previous rates. Secondly it had reviewed its system and decided not to levy differential rates in the future.

The President indicated that Council had followed practices operating in other parts of the State and it was important for the Department to provide education on this issue.

Roger Drakeford

Mr Drakeford indicated that there were still problems with Caw Street.

CEO indicated that the reason Caw Street had been upgraded to a narrower street was to slow traffic down in that area thus improving safety at South Merredin Primary School. Parking was available opposite the school now and parking bays would be painted in. Landscaping the traffic island would commence next winter. There is only one school bus servicing the school.

Barrack Street East

Preliminary costings have taken place.

Shire to provide land for more commercial enterprise. Cost of purchasing Barrack Street East land has risen from \$90,000 to \$120,000.

R Drakeford expressed a vote of thanks to Council for its efforts throughout the year.

**10. CLOSURE**

Shire President publicly thanked Mr Frank Ludovico, CEO for his efforts in dealing with the issues of providing medical services in Merredin.

The President thanked those in attendance for taking time to attend the meeting.

Shire President declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.