

1
**MINUTES – ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2004**

Minutes for the Shire of Merredin Annual Electors Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Cnr King/Barrack Streets, Merredin on Monday 25th October 2004.

ATTENDANCE :

Cr KA Hooper – Shire President
Cr RM Crees – Deputy Shire President
Cr N Hooper, Cr W Wallace, Cr G Astbury, Cr J Simmonds, Cr J Jones, Cr D Clydesdale-Gebert

Messrs PJ Anastasakis, Chief Executive Officer; JA McGovern, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; W Bow, Manager of Development Services

ELECTORS :

S Crees, E Perry, C Whitehead, L Last, S Ivey, J Currell, D Morris, M Morris, K Cahill, C Spence, J Spence, D Lane, C Mowday, V London, M Kendrick, M Young, L Carnicelli, R Truglio, H Giles, B Gray, K Fernihough, T Fernihough, O Kittyea, T Kittyea, M Potter, R Hudson, P Last, L J Gamble, J Elsegood

1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.30pm

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cr J Townrow, Cr S Marley, K Liebeck

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Maria Young seconded Martin Morris

That the minutes of the 2003 Annual Electors meeting held on 1st December 2003 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4.0 ANNUAL REPORT

Shire President Ken Hooper presented his report to the meeting.

Moved Kevin Cahill seconded Dinny Lane

That the Shire President's report for 2003/2004 be received.

CARRIED

5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Executive Officer Phil Anastasakis presented his report to the meeting.

Moved Heather Giles seconded Debbie Morris

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.

CARRIED

6.0 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Executive Officer presented the Annual Financial Report to the meeting.

Moved Martin Morris seconded Bob Gray

That the 2003/2004 Annual Financial Report be received.

CARRIED

**MINUTES – ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2004**

7.0 QUESTIONS ARISING FROM ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

C Mowday – Medical Centre expenditure overestimated, by how much?

CEO read response to Ratepayers Association letter indicating the Shire was required to underwrite operations with a contribution of \$65,192.31 due to one-off set up costs.

8.0 AUDITOR'S REPORT

Moved Maria Young seconded Rosa Truglio

That the Auditor's Report for 2003/2004 be received.

CARRIED

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Questions from Ratepayer's Association – Response at Attachment 1.

Les Last – Extra expense for Shire to run Visitor Centre. Were there 'outside' influences in decision to manage the Centre?

Shire President – No Councillors are persuaded by outside influences.

Sharon Ivey – Why is Council spending money on operating Visitor Centre?

Shire President – The matters associated with Council's decision to manage the Visitor Centre were discussed in detail at the Special Elector's meeting held earlier this year.

Moved Judy Currell seconded Elwyn Perry

"That Council conduct a letter drop to advertise the Annual Electors Meeting and any Special Elector's Meetings, in addition to statutory advertising."

CARRIED

Louie Jane Gamble – Is Council going to continue with Newsletter in Mercury?

Shire President – Council has accepted an offer to publish newsletter in the Mercury and this will help with the timely notification of Council's activities, given the previous Newsletter was published quarterly.

Vic London – No response to letters regarding Avon Waste.

Chief Executive Officer – Responded that on the contrary, numerous letters received from Mr London regarding Avon Waste have met with a response.

Sharon Ivey – One of Medical Centre doctors goes to Perth on weekends and is on call there. Asked whether Council had a role in retaining the doctors in town to fulfil on-call role at the District Hospital.

Shire President – Unaware of these arrangements. Shire does not have a role in managing hospital on-call system and doesn't have control over doctors outside there contract obligations.

Kevin Cahill – Referred to 2003/2004 Financial Report - Page 27 Transport.

Shire President – This increase is a reflection of an infrastructure asset revaluation conducted in 2003/2004.

Louie Jane Gamble – Spoke in favour of Doctors being supported particularly with assistance from locum. Is there a connection with AMA?

**MINUTES – ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2004**

Shire President – Doctors have regular study commitments in Perth. Locums difficult to attract in their absence although Dr Chow visits from Bruce Rock. Medical Board meetings held regularly to discuss issues doctors face. There is no specific connection with AMA in regard to the operation of the Medical Centre.

Kevin Cahill – Proposed Recreation Centre development cost relevant to capital costs. Will clubs be charged high amounts for membership? Has there been studies on feasibility of using subsidies to retain existing facilities?

Shire President – Pointed out the move toward a central recreation facility comes from community initiative, therefore Council is not the instigator of the Recreation centre project. Studies have not been conducted because the community outcome from the Merredin Sports Council Needs Assessment is to construct a new facility.

General questions from the floor asking for public meeting/referendum on the Recreation Centre complex.

CEO – The need for the new centre is community driven and stages of development of the Recreation Centre are known, Funding sources are under investigation and the overall expectation of the new facility is to improve the standard of sporting facilities in the district.

Peter Last – Industrial land close to Donovan Ford, when will it be available?

CEO – Described the process including need for town planning amendment, purchase of land from Public Transport Authority, surveying and preparing an outline development plan. Best estimates are the land is approximately 2 – 3 years from completion and availability for sale. As to industrial land development at McKenzie Crescent, this land is owned by Landcorp, it is therefore their project. 2 parcels of land have been allocated to Council and 1 is set aside for Native Title negotiations.

Les Last – Salinity issues at industrial land. How much land is Council buying?

Shire President - $\frac{2}{3}$ of the PTA land will be reserved as public open space that will neither be cleared or developed.

Mel Potter – Referred to the Whitfield Way land and asked at what stage do owners pay rates?

CEO – At settlement and on possession of the land.

Vic London – Why haven't we got a full time ranger?

Shire President – Currently part-time arrangement on a shared basis with other Councils under terms of agreement.

Judy Currell – Kerbside rubbish collection survey. Will this be done by staff or contractors?

CEO – Costs were based on Shire staff performing the collection.

Question from the floor leading to following motion :

Moved Colin Mowday seconded John Elsegood

“Motion of dissent in the Shire President”

LOST

**MINUTES – ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
MONDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2004**

Les Last – Hunt’s Dam and condition of track in and out. When is it going to be fixed up?

Shire President – Work is due to be done fairly soon. Merredin Peak will soon be upgraded to improve traffic management.

Vic London – Cars parked on footpath?

Shire President – Ranger attempts to warn as many as possible during his time in Merredin and on becoming aware of this hindrance.

Moved Judy Currell seconded Kim Fernihough

“That the Shire enforce local laws with regard to parking on footpaths and advertise observance of local laws in Shire Newsletter.”

CARRIED

Martin Morris – Complimented Council on work carried out to beautify the town.

Heather Giles – Complimented Councillors on effort they put in on behalf of the community.

Shire President reminded the meeting of the Public Meeting on 15th November 2004 to discuss the Sports Complex and condition of roads and footpaths.

10. CLOSURE

Shire President declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.