



Western Australia

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting of the Murchison Shire,
Held in the Sports Complex, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
On Thursday 18th December 2014 commencing at 2:00 pm.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The President declared the meeting open at 2:07 pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members:

Shire President, Councillor Mark Halleen
Deputy Shire President, Councillor Rossco Foulkes-Taylor
Councillor Simon Broad
Councillor Paul Squires
Councillor Andrew Whitmarsh
Councillor Miles Williams

Official Staff:

Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Goodbourn
Senior Finance Officer, Candice Smith

Electors:

Bridget Seaman
Reg Seaman
Tom Seaman
Michael Foulkes-Taylor
Jano Foulkes-Taylor
Emma Foulkes-Taylor
Natalie Broad
Stuart Broad
Frances Jones
David Pollock
Colleen Herold
William Herold

Electors that joined part way through the meeting:

Sandy McTaggart
Trevor Hipper
Brian Wundenberg

Non-Electors (not eligible to vote)

Reg Lee
Brendan Seaman
Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Jo Squires

Apologies:

Carolyn Halleen

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Electors Meeting Minutes – 8th February 2014

Moved: Simon Broad

Seconded: Paul Squires

That the Minutes of the Electors Meeting held on the 8th February 2014 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

The President called for questions.

Bridget Seaman asked whether we could provide some instruction to the community on use of the UHF radio duplex system, including which channels cover which areas.

Paul Squires said there were two issues: - the areas covered by channels 1, 6 & 7 and how to use the duplex button and he would like to see some training provided.

Michael Foulkes-Taylor said that it was good to see the dust suppression works now completed on the Beringarra-Pindar Road.

Bridget Seaman asked whether there would now be dust suppression at Bullardoo on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road.

The shire president advised that dust suppression was required at other stations including Bullardoo, Curbur and Milly Milly and the shire would incorporate further works into the annual budget preparation and future works programme.

Jo Squires said there was a problem at Twin Peaks as the road goes straight through the station. It was suggested that it might be better to move the road around the property.

Paul Squires advised that he had received a shire directive to move the road and was hoping to walk through with the shire and work out a plan.

Emma Foulkes-Taylor said she would give her full support to the moving of the road. Earlier this year she had visitors that got to Twin Peaks and then were unsure they were on the right road so had turned around and gone back – adding some considerable time to their journey.

Bridget Seaman asked where we were with item 5.2 from the last meeting– the community water supply.

The CEO advised that the new tank had been installed and only recently completed with a water meter installed to measure water usage as was required under the water licence. Bridget Seaman asked what the meter was reading and was informed it had not yet been read as it had only been fully completed about 3 weeks ago.

There was further discussion on sinking a second bore to help supply the tank as the one bore is struggling to supply enough to keep the tank topped up.

There being no more discussion, the President called for the vote

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

4.1 Presidents Report

President Halleen read aloud his report for 2013/2014.

Moved: Frances Jones

Seconded: Natalie Broad

That the Presidents Report be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2 CEO's Report

The CEO read aloud the CEO's report for 2013/2014.

Moved: David Pollock

Seconded: Natalie Broad

That the CEO's report be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Finance Report

Moved: Frances Jones

Seconded: Rossco Foulkes-Taylor

That the Finance Report be accepted.

The CEO gave a brief overview of the Statement of Comprehensive Income, noting that income for the FY ending June 2014 was more than budgeted due to grants for the Ballinyoo Bridge project being received in May 2014. This money is being held in a separate account pending the commencement of the bridge project. We also received some \$3.8 million from Mitsubishi in payment for the termination of the Crosslands road agreement we had for the Beringarra-Cue Road. This is also being held in a separate reserve account for expenditure on the road as required. All other income and expenditure was as budgeted with no major variances to report.

The CEO also noted that we had been successful in securing the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government funding from 2012-2013. This money appeared to have been lost during 2013-2014, when it

was due to be paid but a state budget review had seen it re-instated and the monies were received in July 2014. This has seen us able to re-introduce the laundry and accommodation units at the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park and the synthetic lawn bowling rink at the Murchison Sports Club. Both of which projects should be completed in March-April of 2015.

Dave Pollock asked how much the Ballinyoo bridge project was and how much the shire was having to contribute.

The CEO advised the total budget was \$5.5 million.

This was being funded by:-

Royalties for Regions – MWIP	\$3,500,000
CLGF Regional Component 2012/2013	\$ 771,875
Roads 2 Recovery – Bridges 2014/2015	\$ 500,000
Shire – Roads 2 Recovery 2013/2014	\$ 382,580
Shire – Roads 2 Recovery 2014/2015	\$ 271,875
Shire – Own Funds 2014/2015	\$ 73,670

All funds have been secured. The geotechnical investigation has been completed, as has the full design and specifications. BG& E are currently preparing the tender documentation and we should have the tender advertised before the end of the year.

There being no further discussion, the President called for the vote.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.4 Auditor's Report

The CEO read aloud the Auditors Report

Moved: Miles Williams

Seconded: Michael Foulkes-Taylor

That the Auditors Report be received.

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor said it was good the auditor's report contained nothing to report but it was very wordy and he wanted to ask for confirmation that all CCC matters had been finalised and there were no ongoing issues.

The CEO confirmed that all aspects of the previous investigation have been completed and there is nothing pending.

Bridget Seaman asked whether any of the misappropriated monies had been repaid by the former CEO and if so how much. The CEO advised that no monies had been repaid, however the shire had been able to settle a claim with their insurances for an amount of \$40,689.74 being the actual amount the conviction was for and a further \$42,040.40 towards costs incurred by the shire in carrying out a forensic audit at the time.

There being no further discussion the President called for the vote.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Shire Tourism – Branding

Last year Dave Pollock had brought up a comment about updating our tourism branding. David said that he had spoken on behalf of Frances last year but as she was here this year he would pass this onto her.

Frances said that she knows the shire has been working collaboratively with surrounding shires to develop a tourism strategy and feels that this is progressing at last.

The CEO confirmed that tourism had never been off the agenda, but it had taken longer to secure funding and develop the strategy than anticipated. In the end we had been able to work in with the MWDC and their tourism blue print for the mid west and get a strategy for the eight shires of the Gascoyne Murchison Region. This will now demonstrate that we will look towards this document as an informing document when planning tourism related projects. In addition it provides a tangible commitment towards regional cooperation for the implementation of the Strategy.

5.2 Anzac Centennial

Jo Squires raised the issue of an Anzac Centennial function and asked where we were with plans for an improved remembrance garden/memorial.

The CEO confirmed that a grant application had been submitted under the Anzac Centennial Local Grants round back in April and despite chasing the application several times we had still not been advised whether the application was successful or not. We are making contingency plans in case the grant is not forthcoming and some large monolith stones have been brought to the settlement ready for the new area. It was also planned to have a cricket match on the day as we had been unable to have the usual Christmas match and there would be some funds available from the shire to assist with the function.

5.3 Station Roads

Natalie Broad said that something needs to be done at Milly Milly station – they have a similar problem as Twin Peaks with the road running close to the homestead. There are signs up asking people to slow down but they are largely ignored and there are children and horses around that could be injured. The shire needs to look at diverting the road there or putting in speed bumps.

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor said that sometimes it could be easier for the station owner to push a new track through on their property as any new roads or alterations to roads by the shire have to address native title issues and road re-alignment compliance.

Paul Squires said that in principal that was OK but if it is a private road then any problems such as accidents that occur, could be the responsibility of the station owner.

The CEO said that the gazetted roads also have to be within the road reserves or there could be further issues.

5.4 Contractors

Emma Foulkes-Taylor raised the issue that a couple of months ago we had a situation where Squires Resources was working for Lacy Contracting on road works in the Cue Shire, whilst the Murchison Shire were employing Lacy Contracting to carry out flood damage works in our shire. The situation seemed crazy. The CEO advised that tenders had to be called for the works and the shire had engaged Greenfield Technical Services for this. At the time of awarding the contracts there was a major price difference between the contractors and the shire decided on those contractors that offered best value for money.

Emma Foulkes-Taylor asked if there was a local preference policy to allow us to utilise local contractors. The CEO advised that there was a local preference policy in the Shire of Murchison Policy Manual that allowed up to 15% price difference on small purchases up to \$2,000 and on major contracts allowed a 5% price difference. In the shire's actual Purchasing Policy there is not a local preference stipulated.

5.5 Tender for Flood Damage Work

Bridget Seaman asked why the two tenders called for flood damage works had been different. Tender GTS MU 6.2014 had included a reference to Local Preference and Local Purchasing Policy whereas Tender GTS MU 7.2014 did not have this in.

The CEO advised she would clarify this with Greenfields Technical Services who had prepared the tenders on behalf of the shire. It is likely that once we realised that the shire purchasing policy does not have a specific local preference section it was no longer relevant to the tender.

5.6 Wild Dog Bounty

Reg Seaman wanted to thank the shire for the monies that had been allocated to the Wild Dog Bounty Scheme and for the purchase of meat for baiting.

5.7 Socially Sustainable Projects

Reg Seaman said he would encourage the shire to look at allocating funds for other socially sustainable projects or we could end up with great roads that lead to nowhere.

Emma Foulkes-Taylor agreed with this and following asked what progress has been made with the proposed project officer.

The CEO said that is still ongoing. She has been obtaining position descriptions from other shires to formulate what we need our role to contain. However until the new unit of housing is completed we do not have any housing available. This should hopefully be resolved soon and we can look at recruiting in the New Year.

Bridget Seaman said she was disappointed that the CEO had not attended the recent LCDC, Concessional Loan Information Session and PGA meeting held on the 11th December. She feels it is necessary for our civic leaders to be there to be aware of the situation facing many community members.

The CEO said she had planned on attending but in the end could not due to time constraints. The CEO is aware of the concessional loan scheme and the criteria which make it virtually impossible for anyone within

the shire of Murchison to be eligible and is acutely aware of the drought conditions and hardship facing many people in the community.

5.8 Litter Signs

Bridget Seaman said that following the 'design an anti-litter poster competition' the shire was going to get road signs made of the winning designs. So far only a few small signs have been put up – are they getting any larger ones? The CEO confirmed that larger versions have been ordered and will be put up around the shire soon.

5.9 CSIRO

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor said it was a shame that no one from CSIRO had attended the meeting and asked if they had put in any apologies. President Halleen advised that Brett Hiscock had been unable to attend as he was flying home but he said that they want to be involved with the community and would try to attend meetings in the future.

5.10 Agendas & Minutes

Bridget Seaman asked whether the agenda and minutes could be circulated via community email each month. She knows they are available on the website but feels that circulating them via email might remind people and encourage them to attend.

President Halleen said this could be done and will start from the February meeting.

5.11 Astrofest

Emma Foulkes-Taylor asked what was happening with the Astrofest.

The CEO advised that Priscilla Clayton who used to work for CSIRO and did a lot of the organising and administration is no longer at Geraldton – her position has been made redundant. On Monday the CEO was contacted by CSIRO to advise that the new contact person for the Astrofest would be Rob Hollow the CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science Educational Outreach Officer. However I don't know if they actually realise how much Priscilla did and if they will be able to provide the same level of hands on support.

We will need to call a meeting of the Astrofest committee early in the New Year to discuss the situation.

5.12 Cemetery and Remembrance Walk

Natalie Broad said that it was good to see the grant money back to allow the laundry, accommodation and bowls projects to proceed and asked if any of the money was going to complete the cemetery.

The CEO advised that the grant had not been allocated towards the works at the cemetery, however there was an allocation of \$10,000 in the 2014/2015 budget to cover this.

Paul Squires said that once the cemetery was completed it would come under the Settlement Building Working Group which has been set up to oversee municipal buildings in the settlement. This would save having to have a separate cemetery working group.

Paul then asked for people to let the shire know additional names for the remembrance walk. Please send in names of any one you would like to see a plaque for to the shire.

5.13 Spiders

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor said that if any one contacts the shire who is interested in spiders we should let them know that there are lots of trap door spiders at the cemetery. He had recently been at the cemetery and there must have been well over 150 throughout the grounds.

5.14 FOI

Bridget Seaman said that in the Annual Report on page 13 there is reference to the Shire's Freedom of Information Statement. The statement needs to be amended as when she recently used it there was a problem with the review process.

The CEO advised the FOI statement is being reviewed but the section in the Annual Report is correct as it only refers people to the information.

5.15 PGA

Rosco Foulkes-Taylor asked - is the Shire aware if new native title requirements are triggered by handing back old roads to the pastoralist or the state?"

The CEO was not sure if the changing of roads would affect the native title aspect of pastoral leases.

Obviously any new alignments have to be cleared by the relevant native title party as part of the process and with the recent confirmation of the alteration of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road the CEO has been informed by the Department of Lands that the proposed road closure won't be amalgamated into adjoining pastoral lease land – it will become UCL/Closed Road.

5.16 Settlement Appearance

Michael Foulkes-Taylor said that whilst appearance isn't everything we need to record our appreciation to Trevor and Leanne for how they have made the settlement look. It is neat and tidy and they have obviously got a keen interest in keeping it like this and work hard to maintain it.

Note: Mrs Leanne Hipper resigned from the shire in October after three years of outstanding work.

Motion:

That the community officially records it's appreciation to Trevor & Leanne Hipper for the work they have done in keeping up the appearance of the settlement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.17 Plants

President Halleen informed the meeting that Trevor had been growing trees and had recently sold some to the shire of Yalgoo. We should put this in the Monologue so that people are aware as plants grown here will be used to the climate and might stand a better chance of surviving.

6. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 3:20pm

These Minutes were confirmed at the AGM of electors held on

Signed.....Presiding Officer