



SHIRE OF MURCHISON ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES

Meeting commenced 2:15 PM
Saturday 19th December 2015
MURCHISON SPORTS CLUB BUILDING
MURCHISON SETTLEMENT

1. Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors

Meeting declared open at 2:15 pm

2. Record of Attendance/Apologies/Leave of Absence

Elected Members:

*Shire President, Councillor Mark Halleen
Deputy Shire President, Councillor Rossco Foulkes-Taylor
Councillor Emma Foulkes-Taylor
Councillor Simon Broad
Councillor Miles Williams*

Official Staff:

Chief Executive Officer, Dianne Daniels

Electors:

*Reg Seaman
Tom Foulkes-Taylor
Greydon Mead
Tania Mead
Michael Foulkes-Taylor
Jano Foulkes-Sandy McTaggart
Carolyn Halleen
Sarah Halleen
Frances Jones*

David Pollock
Natalie Broad

Non-Electors (not eligible to vote)

Hamish Ball
Paul Lukitsch
Bill Mitchel
Jenny Mitchell

Apologies:

Councillor Andrew Whitmarsh

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Acceptance of the Minutes of previous Annual Meeting of Electors held 18th December 2014.

Moved: Emma Foulkes -Taylor

Seconded: Reg Seaman

That the Minutes of the Electors Meeting held on the 18th December 2014 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

The President called for Business Arising from Minutes

President Halleen noted that the Litter signs that were produced from the 'design an anti-litter poster competition' could not be made any larger as the printer had advised that they would distort if made any larger due to the quality of the artwork. Greydon Mead suggested that we run a campaign, specifying the use of large paper.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Consideration of Annual Report 2014-15

4.1 Presidents' Report

President Halleen read aloud his report for 2014/2015.

Moved: Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Sarah Halleen

That the Presidents' Report be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2 CEOs' Report

The CEO read aloud her report for 2014/2015.

Moved: Cr Broad

Seconded: Cr Williams

That the CEOs' Report be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Finance Report 2014-15

Moved: David Pollock

Seconded: Nat Broad

That the Finance Report be accepted.

The CEO gave a brief overview of the Statement of Comprehensive income, noting that income was up on budget due mainly to the pre-payment of 50% of the 2015/2016 Financial Assistance Grant amounting to \$1.8 million. Expenditure and Non-Operating Grants were close to budget with no major variances to report.

The CEO noted that there were grants brought forward of \$4.8 million, which, together with the Reserves of \$4.3 million, made up the restricted cash of \$9.2 million at Note 20 (Rating Information). The Surplus of \$7.1 million was the same as the Estimated Surplus Brought Forward in the Budget and so no adjustments are required to be made to the Budget due to variances in the brought forward figure.

Sandy McTaggart asked why the DFES Toyota Landcruiser fast attack was showing in the Grants schedule, with the CEO explaining that an accounting entry had to be made for the grant and for the expense, effectively netting out the cost. Mr McTaggart then asked if that meant the Fast Attack belonged to the Shire, with the CEO responding in the affirmative.

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.4 Independent Auditors' Report

Moved: Michael Foulkes- Taylor

Seconded: Cr Williams

That the Independent Auditors' Report be accepted.

The CEO briefly summarised the Auditors Report, noting that the Auditors believed that the audit evidence they obtained was sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their audit opinion and had given an unqualified audit report.

There being no questions the president called for the vote.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5 **General Business**

5.1 Emergency Contact Details for Christmas Period Shutdown – attached

The president directed the meetings attention to the flyer that had been prepared with emergency contact details for the Christmas/New Year period.

5.2 Committees/Working Groups

5.2.1 Call for Community Members for Committees/Working Groups

The call for Community Members for the various committees and working groups that came out of the November Meeting of Council resulted in membership as shown below:

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	STAFF	STAFF	COMMUNITY
Accident Prevention Working Group	Cr E Foulkes-Taylor			CEO		3 positions – no applicants
Community Advisory Group	President Halleen	Cr Whitmarsh		CEO	Works Supervisor Gardener	Natalie Broad Paul (C/Taker) 1 position
Murchison Community Fund Management Committee	Shire President			CEO		Sandy McTaggart

						Quentin Fowler
Local Emergency Management Committee	President Delegated role to Cr R Foulkes-Taylor			CEO	Works Supervisor	Refer LEMA
Settlement Drinking Water Working Group (New)	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	Cr Williams		CEO	Works Supervisor Health Officer	1 position – no applicants
Settlement Power Supply Working Group (New)	Cr Broad	Cr Williams	Cr Whitmarsh	CEO	Works Supervisor	Paul Squires
Wild Dog Control Working Group	Cr Whitmarsh			CEO		Sandy McTaggart Ref Seaman
Project Officer Working Group	President Halleen	Cr E Foulkes-Taylor		CEO	Works Supervisor	2 positions – no applicants

The Accident Prevention Working Group, the Settlement Drinking Water Working Group and the Project Officer Working Group did not receive any community applications. The opportunity is still available to apply for those Community Members who may be interested in any of the three Working Groups.

The President called for applicants for the four committees that had been convened at the November Ordinary Meeting of Council which were still short on Community members. Jo Squires had applied for the Community Advisory Group (CAG) earlier by email and so took the last position on CAG. There was no interest from the floor for the other committees. The President requested that the CEO send another email request to the Community.

5.2.2 Establishment of a Bridge Opening Committee

At the 17 December Ordinary Meeting of Council, council decided to form a Bridge Opening Committee to facilitate the opening of the new Ballinyoo Bridge.

The Committee members are:

President Halleen
 Cr Simon Broad
 Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor
 CEO – Dianne Daniels
 2 community members (TBA)

There is an opportunity for two community members to join the Committee.

The President called for nominations to be sent to the CEO by the end of January and to email any ideas for the opening to her, to be reviewed by the Committee once formed.

5.2.3 Astrofest

The Astrofest Committee was not reformed at the November Meeting of Council as were the other Committees and Working Groups.

The financial results of the 2015 Astrofest are:

Income	\$10,000.00	brought forward 2013
	\$12,147.80	Ticket Sales & Sponsorship 2015
	\$ 5,000.00	Contribution CSIRO
	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	Contribution Shire of Murchison
	\$32,147.80	
Expenses	\$28,214.00	

Ticket sales were well down for 2015 compared to 2013 as caterers were hired for the event rather than the committee members doing the catering in-house. This pushed the ticket price up from \$35 per head to \$80 per head.

Also, an event co-ordinator was hired to assist with the event.

Where to from here?

David Pollock noted that CSIRO used to do a lot to help with the Astrofest and asked what approaches had been made for them to help a bit more and perhaps include a trip to MRO. The President explained CSIRO's input and noted that a visit to the MRO as part of Astrofest had been bandied about. Miles Williams noted that the timing of our Astrofest clashed with the scientists visit to a conference in Hawaii, which limited the speakers available. Greydon Mead queried how they can expect to get funding from the wider community if they aren't willing to show the MRO and suggested we look at a different event.

Cr E Foulkes Taylor queried the benefit of having the Astrofest at all – there is very little economic benefit that comes from the event and very few locals are interested in attending. The CEO noted that \$10,000 came forward from 2013 and without that there would have been a loss in 2015. If 2017 attracts the same numbers as 2015, then there will be a loss in 2017. Carolyn Halleen noted that the profit on the catering was minimal. Michael Foulkes-Taylor agreed that there is very little local support or interest and that the contribution of the Shire would be infinitely more than the \$5,000 shown in income. Rossco Foulkes-Taylor said we are a local council for local people and should try something else.

Frances Jones defended the Astrofest, noting that 2011 and 2013 were successful. From an organisational point of view, planning for 2015 didn't start until late in the year. If we had started earlier we would have achieved a better attendance rate. Frances also thought that it's very important to have an event that attracts outside visitors to the area. Jano Foulkes-Taylor suggested that it would be more interesting once we have a dish, a tower and an interpretive centre and suggested that CSIRO might like to contribute to the interpretive centre.

President Halleen concluded by saying that the Committee will meet in July and will then see how serious CSIRO are.

5.3 Other Business

5.3.1 Beringarra Cue Road Reserve

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor queried the movement of \$733,920 from the Beringarra Cue road Reserve. The CEO noted that it was well over budget but couldn't immediately answer why.
Question Taken on Notice.

He also asked if we were on budget with drainage and the CEO answered that we were, though some of the expenditure came over into the 2015/2016 financial year.

5.3.2 Beringarra Cue Road

Sandy McTaggart noted that the Beringarra Cue Road requires more attention. President Halleen replied that the Shire will be potholing in this financial year and Cr R Foulkes-Taylor said that in a general sense we need to make a decision on how to keep as much bitumen in a reasonable condition for as long as possible without depleting the Reserve. Natalie Broad asked if the money for the recent works came from Reserves and the President responded in the affirmative.

5.3.3 Storage Bunkers for Road Building Materials

Michael Foulkes-Taylor mentioned that the Shire had been talking about tidying up the building materials on the west side of the workshop for 30-40 years. He suggested that some concrete bunkers be put in to segregate the resources from each other and to tidy things up.

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor clarified that he was talking about pre-cast bunkers.

5.3.4 Access Road to DPaW Property

Reg Seaman asked if Council had adopted a policy to not grade the Access Road into Woolgorong.

President Halleen mentioned that there had been a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the (then) Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) and the Shire when the property had first been acquired by DEC. He thought that the maintenance arrangement ceased when the MOU ceased, but would need to look further into it.

Question Taken on Notice.

5.3.5 Cost of Legal Advice

Reg Seaman asked how much the legal advice had cost Council when he and Bridget had a tiff with Council

Question Taken on Notice

5.3.6 Corners on New Forrest Yallalong Road Require Signs

Reg Seaman noted that there are sharp two corners on the New Forrest Yallalong Road, between New Forrest and Yallalong, which require signage.

5.3.7 Upgrade Wooleen RFDS Strips' Lighting to LED

David Pollock requested that the Shire upgrade the lights on the Wooleen RFDS strip to LED. President Halleen suggested that Dave liaise with the CEO, as Council had nominated RFDS strip lighting to be maintained by the Shire.

5.3.8 Bunds between Twin Peaks & Wooleen

David Pollock mentioned that some bunds between Twin Peaks and Wooleen have been put in the middle of a creek. They have witches hats on them, but need to be taken out.

CEO to follow up with Works Supervisor.

5.3.9 Nerramyne-Geraldton Road

Greydon Mead mentioned that he uses the Nerramyne Geraldton Rd but pays no rates to City of Greater Geraldton or Shire of Chapman Valley and so has no leverage to ask for it to be maintained. The road is in pretty poor condition. Trucks that cart from Nerramyne drag tyres, but leave them in the middle of the road, so it is very dangerous. Greydon wanted to know if there was any way that the Shire of Murchison could maintain it and get recompense from either CGG or Shire of Chapman Valley.

In summary, the answer was no. The Shire can't even get CGG to reimburse us if we were to maintain their section of the Carnarvon Mullewa Road or the Beringarra Pindar road.

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor suggested that the Mead family furnish Council with a letter with some details and Council could endorse a letter of support.

5.3.10 Twin Peaks By-Pass

Michael Foulkes-Taylor asked if the Twin Peaks Bypass would be bitumised as soon as it was done, with a response in the negative from President Halleen.

5.3.11 Signs

Frances Jones noted that directional signage for stations tends to be little finger signs. Would Council consider more informative signs? Businesses/stations may be willing to contribute to the extra cost.

There was a general conversation regarding missing signs and Cr Williams noted that keeping up to date with signs was a big task. It is very important to let the Works Supervisor know if a sign is missing.

Reg Seaman suggested that we install the same big blue litter signs that are used on the Main Roads at our Shire boundaries.

President Halleen suggested that if there were any road or sign suggestions to put them in an email to the CEO, so that they could be considered in the next budget.

5.3.12 Narryer Access Road to be Named

Sandy McTaggart mentioned that he was in the process of naming the Mt Narryer access road after the original pioneer. If anyone else has a road that needs naming, they could piggy back off his process.

5.3.13 Roads & Settlement

Natalie Broad asked who should be contacted to investigate designated/gazetted roads. President Halleen noted that the subject had been taken to the last Murchison Zone of WALGA meeting, but met with little enthusiasm. Cr Broad mentioned that John McLeary was keen to take it to a MEG meeting, but that hasn't happened as yet.

Michael Foulkes-Taylor congratulated the Murchison Shire for the roads and appearance of the Settlement. David Pollock concurred and said that the closing of the roads for weather events had been good this year. Reg Seaman agreed that the roads are a credit to the Shire. Cr E Foulkes-Taylor mentioned that the Museum caretakers are always getting very positive feed-back about the Settlement from visitors passing through the museum.

Summary

The President asked if there was any more business. Michael Foulkes-Taylor suggested that the Works Foreman needed to be at future Electors Meetings to answer questions. The President welcomed Emma Foulkes-Taylor as Councillor – the first husband and wife team to be on the Murchison Council. He also welcomed Ryan Prow (who is looking after the grounds) and his family. The President thanked Paul Lukitsch and John and Marcia from the Roadhouse. He thanked Jano Foulkes-Taylor for the framed Bridge photos and mentioned that John Jensen had painted the bridge, which will be hung in the Roadhouse. The President also thanked Bill & Jenny Mitchel for supplying some refreshments for after the meeting.

6. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 3:56pm

These Minutes were confirmed at the AGM of electors held on

Signed.....Presiding Officer