



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Saturday **18 December 2021**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	3
	3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 November 2021	3
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	3
5	RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	4
6	STANDING ORDERS	4
7	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4
8	NEXT MEETING	4
9	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
10	URGENT BUSINESS	4
11	NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	4
12	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION.....	5
13	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS	5
14	ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED	5
	14.1 Shire President	5
	14.2 Councillors.....	5
15	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES	5
16	WORKS	6
	16.1 Works Report.....	6
17	FINANCE.....	7
	17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council	7
	17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 November 2021	8
18	DEVELOPMENT	9
	18.1 Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment.....	9
19	ADMINISTRATION.....	11
	19.1 2022 Meeting Dates	11
	19.2 Returning Officer’s Report - 2021 Extraordinary Election	13
	19.3 Committees Working Groups & Outside Organisations Operation	15
	19.4 Mid-West Development Commission- Council Board Nomination	18
	19.5 Local Government Reform	20
20	CEO ACTIVITY REPORT	23
21	ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.....	24
22	MEETING CLOSURE.....	24

ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.03pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Greydon Mead as incoming councillor completed the required Form 7 under the Local Government (Constitution) Regulations as well as this, was declared verbally undertaken before an Authorised Person pursuant as outlined in Schedule 2 of the Oaths, Affidavits and Statutory Declarations Act 2005 prior to taking Office

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor
Cr A Whitmarsh
Cr Q Fowler
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Cr S Fowler
Cr G Mead

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO
William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 November 2021

Background

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 25 November 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 25 November 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item 19.3 Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes-Taylor - Impartiality Interest

Item 19.4 Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes-Taylor - Financial Interest

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

It has been customary practice in the interests of a productive meeting in relation to the Conduct of Members during debates for the Council suspend Standing Orders 8.2 (Limitation on Number of speeches) and 8.3 (Duration of Speeches) under Local Law 2001. To facilitate this, the following recommended resolution is required.

Recommendation

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr S Fowler

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

Carried

For

6

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24 February 2021

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Shire President looking forward to hosting a Citizenship ceremony the Christmas Tree Party later this evening for two new citizens, Steve and Lucia Human from Yallalong Station and in enjoying Santa Clause attendance.

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Representatives from CSIRO, Chris Brayton and Brett Hiscock attended the meeting to provide a brief update on various CSIRO and SKA related activities including the following update information.

- ~ Fibre Optic Cable to PIA and the Murchison Settlement. Application for initial funds to cover the cost of the initial survey expected to be approved in January 2022. Survey expected to start in February and be around 6 months in duration
- ~ Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project. Positive start at the initial 10 December Remote Teams Meeting as outlined in item Agenda Item 18.1
- ~ SKA Development. Clearing permit applications for construction camp, optic fibre cable to, SKA construction access road and laydown area
- ~ Beyond the Milky Way production currently viewing in Perth is being well received. with expected premiere in Geraldton in February 2022

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Attended a meeting in Carnarvon as a Board Member of the Gascoyne Region of Regional Development Australia. Point of note is that only very small part of the Murchison Shire in the RDA Region is within the Northern Australia Development Program Area.

14.2 Councillors

Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor

- ~ GeoRegion Zoom meeting 26 November 2021. Karin Grima (RDA) performing well in her role in promoting and developing the GeoRegion.
- ~ MWDC REDS Scheme application review.
- ~ Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project Meeting as outlined in Agenda Item 18.1
- ~ Mid-West Development Commission Meeting 13 December 2021.

Cr Shelly Fowler

- ~ Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project Meeting as outlined in Agenda Item 18.1

Cr Quentin Fowler

- ~ Landor Race Committee Meeting at the Murchison Settlement Community Centre

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File:
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 December 2021
Attachments: Nil

Construction Crew

The Construction crew completed all pavement preparation on Tuesday 7 December and then went in to tidy up, and pavement maintenance mode, in preparation for the arrival of the Downer sealing crew.

Maintenance Crew

The Maintenance crew have completed the Twin Peaks Wooleen Rd and by the time council meets will have completed the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd from the North boundary back to the Settlement.

Christmas Break

The outside crew will break for Christmas on Friday 17 December, with the exception of Stuart and Ryan. My thanks to all our staff for what I believe has been a good year. I would also like to say a special thank you to Racheal, Vicki, and Grot for “picking up the pieces” from time to time on behalf of all the outside crews.

Sealing

The sealing crew arrived a day late which is punctual as far as sealing crews go. They made a good start on Saturday 11 December, getting 3km of single coat down until a mishap involving the spray truck and a roller, brought the operation to a grinding halt. The spray truck has headed off to Perth for repair and re-calibration. We await news of progress.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to wish all Councillors, Staff and the Community a blessed and peaceful Christmas and safe travels to all who will be travelling.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Works Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council notes the Works Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

Comments

Cr G Mead thanked the Works Manager William Herold and his crew for outstanding work throughout the year in reconstructing large sections for the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road leading to successful sealing works by sealing contractors.

Chris Brayton and Brett Hiscock (CSIRO) concurred and also expressed appreciation for the open communication undertaken with CSIRO by the Works Manager during the year.

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Keith White – Relief Finance Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 December 2021
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for November 2021

Matter for Consideration

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13* requires that if the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, then the CEO is to prepare a list of accounts paid by the CEO for each month and present this to the next ordinary meeting of the Council after the list has been prepared and have this list recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

A list of payments presented in accordance with *Regulation 13* of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* made since the last report to Council is attached.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That the accounts since the last report to Council, as per the attached Schedule be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Carried **For** 6 **Against** 0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 November 2021

File: 2.6
Author: Keith White – Relief Finance Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 December 2021
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report November 2021

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

Moore Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 November 2021 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	R Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 November 2021 as attached.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

Note a query relating to Other Revenue (page 7 of report was taken on notice.

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment

File	10.6
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	15 December 2021
Attachments:	Nil

Matter for Consideration

Brief Update of the Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment progress.

Update

By way of a brief update the following progress has been implemented thus far since the last meeting.

Shire - CSIRO Strategic Collaboration

Brief follow up advice and feedback with Dr Anne-Maree Dowd, Executive Manager Performance and Evaluation Strategy at CSIRO. Karen Cosgrove, who has been engaged by CSIRO to undertake significant parts of the research will be in Murchison on the Council day and available for a brief introduction and touch base.

Mid-West Development Commission Business Case

Formal agreements have been entered into for two Royalty for Regions projects and the initial stage one funding is being processed. Brief update progress thus far.

1 Murchison SKA Interpretive Experience Planning Project.

A Mid-West Development Commission organised stakeholder remote meeting on 10 December 2021 started the project to flesh out more details of what is being planned.

Those attending included Adam Murszewski (MWDC), Chris Brayton and Rebecca Wheadon (CSIRO), Scott Lang (UDLA) and Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Shelly Fowler, Frances Pollock, CEO, Community Manager (Murchison Shire).

Representatives from Tourism WA, the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, Museum WA and the University of WA will also be involved in the project,

Overall Scope to be developed includes

- ~ Designs and business case for staged development of an SKA interpretive experience at the Murchison Settlement, including opportunity for broader local tourism priorities.
- ~ Being the closest accessible location to the SKA, the designs and business case should investigate contemporary options / models to create a 'must do' experience that outcompetes other remote SKA interpretation opportunities.
- ~ The designs and business case must reflect the recently completed Murchison Settlement masterplan, which references SKA interpretation.
- ~ Consultation should align with social impact assessment and community consultation to be undertaken by CSIRO (target commencement November 2021). Broad community consultation may not be required for this engagement.
- ~ The desire is to fully integrate this experience with the SKA / CSIRO and other complementary visitor experiences that may be developed in places like Geraldton, Perth, Canberra etc. The scale of the experience should 'make sense' for this location and may be part of a suite of SKA interpretation options.

2 Murchison Roads Planning and Design Planning Project

Work looks like requiring a design of various section of the Carnarvon- Mullewa Road. The City of Geraldton have been requested permission for us to undertake this work in their Shire as part of the project.

Communication Strategy

GRA Partners have been formally engaged and I have attended a brief meeting on 7 December 2021 in their West Perth Offices.

Caravan Park Ablutions Block

Tenders have been advertised for the construction of a new Ablutions Block in the Caravan Park. Tenders closed on 10 December 2021 but unfortunately none were received with minimal enquiries. The building industry is currently well committed generally making sourcing difficult

Recommendation

That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	S Fowler
That Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Settlement Masterplan Redevelopment Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

Councillor Comment

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor expressed disappointment with regard to lack of tenders for ablution block.

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 2022 Meeting Dates

File:	4.16
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	15 December 2021
Attachments:	Nil

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider the meeting dates for Ordinary Council Meetings for 2022.

Background

The precedent is that Ordinary Council meetings are held on the fourth Thursday in each month commencing at 12 noon, with the exceptions of January, when a recess is traditionally observed and December which is to be held on the same day as the Shire Community Christmas Tree thereby allowing for the Christmas break.

In 2021 this precedent was varied slightly to facilitate Cr E Foulkes-Taylor's commitments as a Board Member with the Mid West Regional Development Commission. (MWDC)

Comment

I have been advised by Cr E Foulkes-Taylor that MWDC Meeting dates do not clash with Council's traditional meeting dates so a return to the normal cycle is proposed as outlined in the recommendation.

Statutory Environment

Regulation 12(1) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 requires that:

- (1) At least once each year a local government is to give local public notice of the dates on which and the time and place at which
 - (a) the ordinary council meetings; and*
 - (b) the committee meetings that are required under the Act to be open to members of the public or that are proposed to be open to members of the public, are to be held in the next 12 months.**

Strategic Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That Council gives local public notice of its Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2022 as follows:

Murchison Shire 2022 Ordinary Council Meetings

The following ordinary Council meetings are open to the public commencing at 12 Noon on the dates as shown below. All meetings are held in Council Chambers, Murchison Settlement, WA.

January 2022 (No meeting)	Thursday 28 July 2022
Thursday 24 February 2022	Thursday 25 August 2022
Thursday 24 March 2022	Thursday 22 September 2022
Thursday 28 April 2022	Thursday 27 October 2022
Thursday 26 May 2022	Thursday 24 November 2022
Thursday 23 June 2022	Saturday 17 December 2022

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

That Council gives local public notice of its Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2022 as follows:

Murchison Shire 2022 Ordinary Council Meetings

The following ordinary Council meetings are open to the public commencing at 12 Noon on the dates as shown below. All meetings are held in Council Chambers, Murchison Settlement, WA.

January 2022 (No meeting)	Thursday 28 July 2022
Thursday 24 February 2022	Thursday 25 August 2022
Thursday 24 March 2022	Thursday 22 September 2022
Thursday 28 April 2022	Thursday 27 October 2022
Thursday 26 May 2022	Thursday 24 November 2022
Thursday 23 June 2022	Saturday 17 December 2022

Carried **For** 6 **Against** 0

Councillor Comment

Cr E Foulkes Taylor thanked Council for being accommodating to her requirements during the year in setting Council Meeting dates so as to facilitate her attendance at Mid-West Development Commission Meetings.

19.2 Returning Officer's Report - 2021 Extraordinary Election

File: 4.9
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive / Returning Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 December 2021
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

The Office of the Returning Officer is independent of the Council and at the conclusion of an election it is appropriate for the Returning Officer to provide a report to the Council on the conduct of the election.

Background

As indicated at the September Council resolved that "*Council, having decided to undertake the 2021 Extraordinary Election agrees that the Shire President should fix the Election date.*"

At the time a request to the Electoral Commission was made to use the current roll for the Extraordinary Election. Permission was subsequently granted and following discussion with the Shire President an Election date of Saturday 27 November 2021 was set. This was in practice the earliest we could set within the requirements of the Local Government Act, and if there is an election, the successful candidate will be able to attend the December Meeting, otherwise it would be February.

In order to meet the required timeframes, notice to call for nominations was advertised in the West Australian on Saturday 9 October 2021 and a community email set the day prior. Nominations opened on Thursday 14 October 2021 and closed at 4pm on Thursday 21 October 2021

At the close of nominations 3 nominations were received for the one vacancy for the Murchison District. A draw for position on the ballot paper was then undertaken with candidates nominated to be listed positioned in the following order.

BARBUTO, Bradley
MEAD, Greydon. S
WALTON, Samantha

The "In Person" election was conducted at the Council Office for the entire District. Election Day was from 8:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday 27 November 2021. Early Pre-Poll votes were also be made during Business Hours at the Council Office up until 4:00pm the day before the election. Absent and Postal voting deadline closed at 4:00pm on the 4th day before the election (23 November 2021).

Election Results and Statistics

Following the close of the poll on the Election Day, ballot papers were examined, collected and votes recorded. Summary of results and statistics are as follows

Roll

No of persons on owners Occupiers Roll	2
No persons on residents roll	76
Total number of persons on combined rolls	78

Voter Categories

Absent Voters	0
Postal Voters	2
Early Voters	35
Election Day Voters	5
Total Voter Turnout	42

53.8%

Distribution of Votes

Candidate	Number of Votes
BARBUTO, Bradley	10
MEAD, Greydon. S	20
WALTON, Samantha	12
No Informal Votes	0

Greydon Mead recorded the highest number of votes and was duly elected. His term expires 18 October 2025.

All candidates were notified of the result as soon as the poll was declared. Formal advertising included email being set out to the community then followed.

Comments

As shown above the vast majority of voters (83.3%) voted early. There were also three staff (including me as returning officer) rostered on for the election day to manage the 5 voters who voted on the day. There were also only 2 postal votes received. Given the geographic nature of the Shire both these outcomes were not unexpected. For voluntary voting, voter the (53.83% voting turnout is more than respectable.

Administratively all went well especially considering none of the staff had ever run an in-person election before and in my case not in Western Australia at the level required. There always lessons to be learnt but the Retuning Officers Manual and WALGA support invaluable. Every effort was undertaken to ensure that the election was conducted not only professionally and impartially but also with a high degree of administrative process to ensure that the result can be relied upon. I am confident that this has been achieved.

Recommendation

That Council note the Returning Officer's Report on the 2021 Ordinary Council Extraordinary Elections.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council note the Returning Officer's Report on the 2021 Ordinary Council Extraordinary Elections.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

President adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1.06pm

President re-opened the meeting at 1.48pm

19.3 Committees Working Groups & Outside Organisations Operation

File: 14.24
 Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
 Date: 15 December 2021
 Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Finalisation of the membership of Committees and Working Groups following the day of Ordinary Elections (16 October 2021).

Background

At the October Council Meeting the vast majority of position for Committees and Working Groups was determined by Council. In some instances, appointments were deferred pending the election of a councillor to fill the then remaining vacancy, whilst in other situations nominations for community members were sought through notice via a community email.

Since this time Cr G Mead has been elected to Council and a number of expressions of interest nominations for working groups have now been received.

The following Committee and Working Group Positions as highlighted remain to be filled. Where nominations have been received that person has been listed in the appropriate space in the highlighted section of the table.

Committee	Member	Member	Member	CEO	Staff	Community
Murchison Community Fund Management Committee	Shire President			CEO	N/A	2 Positions <i>Paul Squires nominated</i>

Working Group	Member	Member	Member	CEO	Staff	Community
Plant Working Group	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	Cr A Whitmarsh	1 Vacant	CEO	Works Manager	N/A
Settlement Drinking Water Working Group	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	Cr Q Fowler		CEO	Works Manager Health Officer	1 Position <i>Henry Foulkes-Taylor nominated</i>
Settlement Power Supply Working Group	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	Cr A Whitmarsh	1 Vacant	CEO	Works Manager	1 Position <i>Tom Foulkes-Taylor & Paul Squires nominated</i>
Wild Dog Control Working Group	Cr A Whitmarsh			CEO		2 Positions <i>No nominations</i>
Information Bay Working Group	Cr S Fowler	1 Vacant		CEO	Community Manager	1 Position <i>Francis Pollock & Paul Squires nominated</i>

Organisation	Delegate	Delegate	Proxy	Observer	Observer	Community
Murchison Regional Road Group	1 Vacant		Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	CEO	Works Manager	N/A

At this stage with respect to community positions we have

- ~ One community nomination (Paul Squires) for two positions on the Murchison Community Fund Management Committee
- ~ One community nomination (Henry Foulkes-Taylor) for one community position on the Settlement Drinking Water Working Group
- ~ Two community nominations (Tom Foulkes-Taylor and Paul Squires) for one community position on the Settlement Power Working Group
- ~ No community nominations for the two community positions on the Wild Dog Control Working Group
- ~ Two community nominations (Paul Squires and Francis Pollock) for the one community position on the Information Bay Working Group noting that there is yet no specific terms of reference yet determined for this group,

With respect to councillor appointments vacancies exist for the Plant Working Group and Murchison Regional Road Group.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995

LGA Subdivision 2 - Committees and their meetings. s5.8 to s5.25

Strategic Implications

These groups support the overall implementation Shire of Murchison Community Strategic Plan as per the Shire of Murchison Vision Statement, *Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.*

Policy Implications

Policy 1.3 Committees and Working Groups

It is normal practice that Members are to be appointed having due regard for their particular skills and expertise in the area of interest for which the Working Group has been formed. If there are more Community applicants than positions, then Council will decide the successful applicant(s), usually at the December Ordinary Council Meeting, having due regard for their particular skills and expertise.

Financial Implications

Nil

Recommendation

For Council to decide.

Voting Requirements

Council Committees Absolute Majority.
Working Groups and Delegates Simple Majority

Note Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes-Taylor declared impartiality interests in this matter

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	A Whitmarsh
Council decided as follows:			
Committee or Group		Persons	
<i>Community Positions</i>			
Murchison Community Fund Management Committee		Paul Squires	
Settlement Drinking Water Working Group		Henry Foulkes-Taylor	
Settlement Power Working Group		Tom Foulkes-Taylor	
Wild Dog Control Working Group		Greydon Mead.	
		Tom Foulkes-Taylor appointed subject to his agreement	
Information Bay Working Group noting		Paul Squires and Francis Pollock,	
<i>Note specific terms of reference yet determined</i>			
<i>Councillor Positions</i>			
Plant Working Group		Cr Greydon Mead	
Murchison Regional Road Group		Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor. Cr G Mead Proxy	
Carried		For	6 Against 0

19.4 Mid-West Development Commission- Council Board Nomination

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 15 December 2021

Attachments: 19.4.1 Mid-West Development Commission Local Government Board Nominations Advice

Matter for Consideration

Ratification of Council endorsement for nomination as a Board Member to Mid-West Development Commission.

Background

Council has been advised that the Mid-West Development Commission are seeking nominations for **one** Local Government representative vacancy on its Board... In accordance with the *Regional Development Commission's Act 1993*, nominees for the vacancy must be members of the Council of a Local Government in the region and are to be endorsed for nomination by the governing Council. All Local Governments in the Mid-West region are invited to nominate up to two Councillors, who are willing and able to be candidates, for appointment

As per the attached advice all councillors were sent an email on 1 November 2021. At this time, I advised that I would list the matter on the Agenda for the November Council Meeting. However, it was subsequently revealed that the vacant position was for a position currently occupied by Karen Chappel from Morawa Shire and not that to which Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor occupies. As a result, no formal agenda item was presented to Council

Since this time Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor and I have been advised that her position nominally ceases at the end of 2021 and that she may not have to nominate again for a Board Position, but that the status of an extension of her current term by the Minister is unknown.

Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor is keen to nominate again and to be on the safe side has been advised to nominate just in case. This has been actioned and I have gladly nominated her for a position.

Applications close on the 14 December 2021, which is prior to the Council Meeting so a formal Council endorsement is requested.

Strategic Implications

External Shire appointments to Board's such as the Mid-West Development Commission are pivotal in ensuring that the views of the Shire and region are considered.

Recommendation

That Council endorse Cr Emma Foulkes Taylors application to be a Board Member to Mid-West Development Commission and ratify action taken to bring this into effect

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor declared a Financial Interest in this matter

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor and left the meeting and room at 2.08pm

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That Council endorse Cr Emma Foulkes Taylors application to be a Board Member to Mid-West Development Commission and ratify action taken to bring this into effect.

Carried

For 4

Against 0

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor and returned to the meeting at 2.09pm

19.5 Local Government Reform

File:	2.4
Author:	Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	Nil
Date	15 December 2021
Attachments:	19.5.1 Local Government Reform Summary of Proposed Reforms – Government – WALGA- Murchison Template. 19.5.2 Murchison Shire Voting Examples December 2021

Matter for Consideration

Local Government Reform initiatives proposed by the Minister for Local Government.

Background

At the November Council Meeting an update report on initiatives proposed by the Minister for Local Government in relation to Local Government Reform was provided. This included a summary of the proposed reforms, fact sheets relating to the proposed reforms, a Local Government Reform Summary of Proposed Reforms Template that has been requested to be used in formulating a response plus previous discussions on the subject that were discussed by Council in August 2020 prior to submissions made to WALGA for a then sector wide review.

At the last meeting it was resolved that

Council finalise its submission in relation to Local Government Reform at the December Council Meeting and that this be separately sent to the WALGA and the Minister for Local Government.

At the meeting it was requested that individual comments provided back to the CEO for collation for the December Meeting so that Council could form a position given that WALGA will be putting in a sector wide submission and are seeking input from all local governments. At the time of preparing this Agenda Item only minimal feedback has been received.

Given time constraints and the Christmas New Year period WALGA are requesting comment be provided to them by 12 January 2021 so that they can evaluate and finalise a sector wide submission within the deadline. Notwithstanding a sector wide approach Councils are encouraged to put their own submission.

Update

Since this time WALGA have provided a copy of their current position in relation to each element of the reform. This has now been received and separately forwarded to all councillors. A copy is attached with a space for comments. At this stage I have not had time to provide any comments, other than with respect to point 4.3 as outlined in the comments section below but will prior to a revised WALGA deadline..

In addition, the Minister has advised that the deadline for receipt of submissions has been extended from 4 February 2022 till 5pm 25 February 2022

As a result, WALGA have released the following amended consultation timetable

- ~ Friday 28 January 2022 - Local Governments requested to provide feedback to WALGA by 5pm 28 January 2022
- ~ February 2022 – Zone Meetings to consider a draft sector submission
- ~ Wednesday 23 February at 4pm – WALGA Special Meeting of State Council via video conference to endorse submission
- ~ Friday 25 February 2022 - WALGA to present submission to the State Government.

Accordingly, as per Agenda Item 19.1, if the adopted Council February Meeting date is on 25 February 2022, Council if it so chooses, it could finalise its submission at the 25 February Council Meeting and still send its submission direct to the Minister by the new deadline; although this would not meet WALGA's timeframes

Comment

As a general comment it seems that the approach taken is to address issues that have been raised with further legislation, which it itself may or may not be an improvement, but in effect merely modifies arguably “*around the edges*” to what already exists. There seems to be minimal consideration as to whether the current provisions are adequate or if indeed, they should be there in the first place. Structure always follows strategy, and, in this instance, there does not seem to be much strategy on how local government can contribute the overall well-being of the State.

There also needs to be some pragmatism given what has gone on before as the Minister will invariably wish to see the proposed changes finalised with perhaps limited scope to add any radical departures. From all accounts there is a willingness to listen to suggestions that improve the current proposals. WALGA have engaged in a strong relationship base approach with the State Government and is to be respected.

Importantly from our perspective it is essential that our position on perhaps important segments be articulated direct rather than just relying on a general WALGA response as this may or may not be accord with our views.

As an example, I have attached a summary and analysis relating to point 4.3 on various voting methods. This clearly shows what is proposed by the Minister (Preferential Voting) and why it is preferred over First Past the Post Voting but also shows other issues not canvassed. This questions the current WALGA position, which is still up for review. So, if Council feels this way it would be prudent to say so direct to the Minister as well as WALGA. This is what the Minister would expect and also what WALGA wish.

Statutory Environment

A raft of potential amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 are expected to be delivered.

Policy, Strategic, Risk and Financial Implications

Although unknown amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 as part of this reform will likely impact in some way in all such areas

Recommendation

Council to Decide

Note the previous November Recommendation, that Council finalise its submission in relation to Local Government Reform at the December Council Meeting and that this be separately sent to the WALGA and the Minister for Local Government remains valid but there is now more time (two months) for to Council take advantage of if it so chooses.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr S Fowler

That in relation to Local Government Reform, Council finalise its submission following oversight by the Shire President as per the following matters and that this be separately sent to the WALGA and the Minister for Local Government

Local Gov Consultation Reform Item	Council Response
3.1 Recording and Live Streaming of All Council Meetings	Not Supported
3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) be published	Not Supported
4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting	Support for single position vacancies Support Proportional Representation for multi position vacancies Support random order ballot papers similar to Robson Method Refer detailed explanation as per attachment 19.5.2
4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors	Limit of 5 councillors for Shires with a population of up to 5,000 is not supported
5.4 Local Governments may Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members	Council does not support the proposal and believes that increasing the allowance would be a simpler method to achieve the desired outcome of providing more encouragement to recruiting potential councillors

Carried

For 6

Against 0

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 15 December 2021
Attachments: Nil

General

Despite the period preceding the December Period being short as indicated some important work has been undertaken

As this is the last Council Meeting for the year, I would like to formally thank all Councillors and staff for working so constructively and cooperatively in what has seen significant but positive change. Support for Kaye has been invaluable and much appreciated. Office staff Racheal and Vicki have been specifically impacted with relief Finance Manager Keith White's support valuable and I am particularly appreciative. The 2019 and 2020 years has seen a significant amount of positive change. I think 2022 looks much the same and very positive.

Date	Activity
22.11.2021	TOIL Emails
23.11.2021	TOIL Emails
24.11.2021	TOIL Emails. Local Gov Reform Work
25.11.2021	Council Meeting & Workshop
26.11.2021	Council Meeting follow up
27.11.2021	Election Day Election Work & Other
28.11.2021	Office Admin Work
29.11.2021	Tool Box Meeting. Performance Review Work
30.11.2021	Performance Review Work. SKA Interpretive Project. Telephone discussions with Emma Shelly & Frances Pollock
1.12.2021	Performance Review Work. Water Supply Works preparation. Telephone catch-up with Shire President.
2.12.2021	Admin. TOIL
3.12.2021	TOIL. Meeting with UDLA in Fremantle. Telephone catch up with Anne Marie Dowd CSIRO
4.12.2021	Local Government Reform Work.
5.12.2021	Performance Development Work
6.12.2021	Annual Leave
7.12.2021	Annual Leave. Meeting with GRPA in West Perth
8.12.2021	TOIL
9.12.2021	Performance Review Work. Meetings with Woks Manager and Community Manager DCEO.
10.12.2021	Monologue Works. Meeting and discussions with Travis Bate (RSM) and Mike FitzGerald (FitzGerald Strategies)
11.12.2021	Performance Review, Council Agenda and Bush Fire Meeting Work
12.12.2021	Performance Review, Council Agenda Work
13.12.2021 to 14.12.2021	TOIL. Council Agenda Work
15.12.2021	Council Agenda Work

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

21 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 2.24pm.

Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2022.

Signed.....

Presiding Officer