



GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

(Section 5.27 Local Government Act 1995)

MINUTES

General Meeting of Electors held in the
Frost Park Pavilion, McDonald Avenue, Mount Barker
8.00 pm Monday 6 February 2006

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISISTORS	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	1
3	RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT	2
4	GENERAL BUSINESS	2
5	CLOSURE OF MEETING	4

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

8:03pm The Shire President declared the meeting open.

The Shire President welcomed all members of the public, Councillors and staff to the meeting.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Councillors

Cr K Forbes	Shire President – Rocky Gully / West Ward
Cr D Williss	Deputy Shire President – East Ward
Cr J Cameron	Rocky Gully / West Ward
Cr M Skinner	East Ward
Cr J Mark	Town Ward
Cr B Hollingworth	Town Ward

Staff

Mr R Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Mr J Byrne	Executive Director Corporate and Community Services
Mr S Bell	Executive Director Technical and Development Services
Ms D Baesjou	Manager Development Services
Mr D Blurton	Accountant
Mrs K Skinner	Executive Secretary

Members Of The Public

Mr N Shackleton
Mrs H Skinner
Mr R Sounness
Mrs P Sounness
Mr P Tippet
Mrs S Tippet

Apologies

Cr K Clements	Town Ward
Cr K Hart	Kendenup Ward
Cr J Moir	South Ward

John Seeber
Gert Messmer
Iris Messmer
David Williamson
Jim Thomas
Benita Thomas
Jamie Nunn
George Hartley
Lyn Forbes

3 RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr J Mark, seconded Cr M Skinner:

That the 2004 / 2005 Annual Report be received.

CARRIED

The Shire President read aloud the Shire President's report.

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud the Chief Executive Officer's report.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Neil Shackleton

Mr Shackleton requested information regarding the Council's creditor payment turnaround.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart responded and noted that payment would generally take from two (2) to four (4) weeks but could take longer depending on the checking of all pertinent information before payment is made.

Mrs Pam Sounness

Mrs Sounness sought information on the difference between the 'Plan for Principal Activities' and a 'Plan For The Future'.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart responded and indicated that the legislation for the Plan For Principal Activities had been repealed and replaced with legislation regarding a Plan For The Future. He noted that whereas the legislation relating to the Plan For Principal Activities was quite prescriptive, the legislation relating to the Plan For The Future was less prescriptive. Mr Stewart also noted that he believed that the Council would be handling the Plan For The Future similarly to the Plan For Principal Activities, that is, incorporating the Plan into the Council's Budget documentation.

Mrs Stella Tippet

Mrs Tippet sought information regarding fire build up, especially on Council Reserves. Mrs Tippet also noted receiving a letter from the Council's Ranger – Mr Ray Parry, who advised her of budget allocations.

Shire President – Cr Kevin Forbes

Cr Forbes responded and noted that private land holders could clear up to 1.5 metres on the reserve side of a fence along a Road Reserve. He also noted that some sections of the community preferred the Council not to clear the road verges because of other issues such as rare flora. The Shire President also noted the need to obtain permits for the clearing of vegetation.

Mrs Stella Tippet

Mrs Tippet asked whether a Council Officer could look at the Reserve at Second Avenue, Kendenup with regard to fuel build-up.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart indicated that he would arrange for this to occur.

Mrs Pam Sounness

Mrs Sounness asked whether the Council could be getting a bigger return for its Mount Barker Co-operative shares.

Executive Director Corporate and Community Services– Mr John Byrne

Mr Byrne noted that he would investigate the answer to this issue and respond directly to Mrs Sounness.

Mrs Pam Sounness

Mrs Sounness sought information regarding the Middle Ward Fire Brigade Reserve Fund.

Shire President – Cr Kevin Forbes

Cr Forbes responded and indicated that the Middle Ward Brigade had opted to put its funds prior to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) into a trust account so that there would be no temptation for the funds to be dwindled away.

Cr Forbes noted that some money was to be used for a new shed.

Cr Forbes also noted that the Council could not compel Brigades to give any funding prior to the inception of the ESL to the Council.

Mrs Stella Tippet

Mrs Tippet sought information regarding the Chemical Storage Shed in Kendenup. Mrs Tippet asked whether all conditions of development had been met and whether the Council's officers had inspected the premises.

Manager Development Services– Ms Delma Baesjou

Ms Baesjou responded and indicated that an inspection had been held last Thursday 9 February 2006. She also noted some issues were being followed up.

Mr Neil Shackleton

Mr Shackleton sought information regarding delays relating to consideration of development applications.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart responded and indicated that delays could occur when applicants did not provide all information or when the Town Planning Scheme required advertising and public consultation to occur.

Mr Neil Shackleton

Mr Shackleton inquired about tourist signage within the Shire.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart noted that signage was an issue that involved many different authorities and many different pieces of legislation. Nevertheless, Mr Stewart noted that he was presently arranging a meeting with two (2) other Council officers to develop an alternative draft policy for the Council's consideration.

Mr Neil Shackleton

Mr Shackleton enquired about beautification of entrances into the town of Mount Barker. Mr Shackleton particularly noted the weeds visible in the gutters of the District Town-Hall.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart noted that the Council had adopted a policy regarding entrances to the district of Plantagenet as well as towns. Mr Stewart also noted that two (2)

Mount Barker entry signs had recently been installed on Albany Highway north and South of Mount Barker.

Mr Peter Tippet

Mr Tippet enquired as to signage directing people to the Mount Barker Racecourse.

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Rob Stewart

Mr Stewart noted that some visitors to town had difficulties due to the need to cross the railway line from Albany Highway and that an oversupply of signs could actually have a negative effect when road users had too much information to assimilate.

Mr Stewart also noted that signs, whether they were direction signs or sandwich board signs, needed to comply with the Council's various pieces of legislation including the 'Shire of Plantagenet Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading' Local Law.

Mr Stewart noted that the Council tried to undertake an understanding attitude with regard to sandwich boards outside shops provided that they didn't cause obstruction.

Mr Neil Shackleton

Mr Shackleton sought further information about Lowood Road street-scaping.

Executive Director Technical and Development Services – Mr Stephen Bell

Mr Bell noted that drainage works in Lowood Road were undertaken in November 2005 and that water-main works would occur in mid February 2006 and underground power installation occurring later in February and into March 2006. After that work was completed, Lowood Road in the Central Business District (CBD) would be resurfaced in asphalt.

Mr Peter Tippet

Mr Tippet enquired about stormwater from Lowood Road entering into the Mount Barker Bowling Club.

Executive Director Technical and Development Services – Mr Stephen Bell

Mr Bell responded and noted that some stormwater had been diverted from the Mount Barker Bowling Club area during the November 2005 drainage works but nothing specifically had been undertaken for the Bowling Club.

Mrs Pam Sounness

Mrs Sounness sought information regarding the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards and noted that some figures in the Annual Report related to the period prior to the Council taking over the saleyards.

Executive Director Corporate and Community Services – Mr John Byrne

Mr Byrne noted that the Council had taken over the saleyards three-quarters of the way through a financial year and therefore two (2) sets of figures needed to be included, showing the saleyards as both a joint venture and then as a sole trading entity within the 2004/2005 financial year.

5 CLOSURE OF MEETING

9:17pm The Shire President declared the meeting closed.
