



## **GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

*(Section 5.27 Local Government Act 1995)*

# **MINUTES**

General Meeting of Electors held in the  
Council Chambers, Lowood Road, Mount Barker  
6.30 pm Tuesday 7 December 2010.

**Rob Stewart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

6.30 pm The Presiding Member, Shire President Cr Ken Clements, declared the meeting open.

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**Present

Cr Ken Clements	Shire President
Cr Michael Skinner	Deputy Shire President
Cr Len Handasyde	Councillor
Cr Brett Bell	Councillor
Cr Gert Messmer	Councillor

Staff

Mr Rob Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Fathers	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dominic Le Cerf	Manager Works and Services
Mr Peter Duncan	Manager Development Services
Ms Nicole Selesnew	Manager Community Services
Mrs Linda Sounness	Executive Assistant

Members of the Public

Mr J E Jensen  
Mrs O B Jensen  
Mr R A Kelly  
Mr D R Williamson  
Mr M Adams

Apologies

Cr Sue Etherington

### 3 RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr M Skinner, seconded Cr G Messmer:  
That the 2009/2010 Shire of Plantagenet Annual Report be received.

Carried

#### 3.1 ADDRESS BY SHIRE PRESIDENT

You all have the annual report for the financial year 2009/10 so I'm not going to go through it line by line.

What I will highlight are a few interesting points.

In October 2009 Local Government Elections were held and as it happens a number of Councillors decided not to re-nominate.

I would like to thank Kevin Forbes AM for all the time and effort he put into the President's job for 12 years and his participation on Council for 18 years. He helped pave the way for this Shire to continue to succeed in the future.

The other Councillors to retire included Deb Nye-Chart, Bill Hollingworth and John Mark. Thank you for your input as Councillors.

This report is for the financial year 2009/10. A lot happened during this year which helped set the scene for the current 2010/11 budget.

We felt the effects of Global financial melt down.

The demise of MIS schemes.

A downturn in the wine industry.

Ups and downs in the agricultural areas in general.

Talk of amalgamations with no clear direction from the State.

In spite of all the doom and gloom as you can see from the report a lot was achieved in 2009/10.

With the help of Royalties for Regions grant money and strict financial controls by the administration staff, a number of projects were finished and others that had either been on hold or in planning stages were started.

Corporate Services led by John Fathers kept a tight rein on the finances.

The Works Department under the direction of the new Works Manager Dominic Le Cerf continued to maintain and upgrade the road network and associated areas.

Development Services. As usual Peter Duncan continued to keep his train on the right track.

Community Services, which on paper should be the dream job, continued to challenge Nicole Selesnew and her staff's negotiating abilities.

A working group comprising Staff and Councillors was established to prepare a Long Term Financial Plan to give direction to Senior Staff and Councillors to help blueprint the financial stability of the Shire.

This group meets on a regular basis to revise The Plan as the requirements of the Shire change.

As you can see the Shire of Plantagenet is in an excellent position to face future challenges

I want to thank all the staff and my fellow Councillors for the time, effort and dedication they put into serving the Plantagenet Community.

### **3.2 WORKS AND SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### Spencer Road

Section – straight line kilometre (SLK) 8.20 to 12.42

Currently under construction with seal removed and being widened to 8m

Looking to seal between 15 to 17 January 2011.

#### Porongurup Road

Section – SLK 17.67 to 20.6

Under construction with seal from caravan park being replaced from 20 December 2010.

Section - SLK 20.6 to 26

Being widened to 9m formation with 7m seal during January 2011.

#### Future Works Schedule

Woogenellup Road – February 2011

North Woogenellup Road – February 2011

Morillup Road – March 2011

Beattie Road – March 2011

Red Gum Pass Road – March/April 2011.

### **3.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### Community Resource Centre Development

- Partnership between Shire and Mount Barker Community Resource Centre (MBCRC) Board comprised of Mount Barker Baptist Church, Baptist Union and community representatives.
- Number of builders working on the process with one due to finish at the end of 2010, others early in 2011.
- Some programs already occurring from the Centre – more scheduled to start.
- New Library due to open in late March early April 2011.

#### Skate Parks

- 3D and colour design plans for Kendenup arrived this morning and consultation will occur at the Kendenup Primary School tomorrow.
- 3D and colour design plans for Mount Barker are due at the end of this week and consultation will occur at the MBCC once plans have been received.
- Budget \$160,000.00 for Kendenup comprised cash and in-kind and \$220,000.00 for Mount Barker.
- Construction due to start end of January or early February in Kendenup and to follow through to Mount Barker.

#### Public Toilets

- Public toilets in Centenary and Wilson Parks are due for completion in mid January 2011.
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#### Nature Playground – Centenary and Wilson Parks

- Playground equipment arrived at the end of last week and will be installed as soon as possible with landscaping to follow.

#### Centenary and Wilson Parks Wetland Development

- Concept plans underway for Council consideration to develop a wetland development between Albany Highway and the railway line.
- Wetland development to aid nutrient stripping with water movement through site and be more visually appealing from the highway.

#### Sounness Park

- Plans for recreation development for Sounness Park to become a prime recreation precinct are moving forwards successfully.

## **4 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.1 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE – MR WILLIAMSON**

Mr Williamson commented that ‘there are so many good things about the Community Resource Centre for example the space, the location and the excellent things happening inside, that those responsible should get a big tick’.

### **4.2 AMALGAMATION – MR WILLIAMSON**

Mr Williamson asked for the real status regarding amalgamation. Mr Williamson cited his brother-in-law’s experience in Victoria where amalgamation was forced however not sure how successful.

The Shire President responded advising that both he and Mr Stewart had been to a Leaders Forum regarding amalgamation recently and commented that the Minister has been asked to ‘get on with it’. There is a feeling that this will happen soon after the next State elections.

### **4.3 ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS – TELSTRA MOBILE TOWERS – LACK OF COVERAGE IN RURAL AREAS FOR EMERGENCY AND BUSINESS – MR ADAMS**

Mr Adams made comment on the lack of mobile telephone coverage in rural regions and is this a possibility for Royalties for Regions funding.

Mr Stewart responded advising that he had recently attended a meeting sponsored by the Department of Commerce relating to Telecommunications. The Commonwealth Department of Commerce was seeking funds (\$250,000.00) from Local Governments to investigate the feasibility of towers however they did state that our region was not considered a priority, with this Shire being the lowest priority of three areas. Also a promised contribution of \$250,000.00 from each Local Government does not guarantee a tower.

**4.4 NORTH WOOGENELLUP ROAD – FLORA ROAD – MR ADAMS**

Mr Adams made comment that although North Woogenellup Road is classed as a Flora Road, the road still has to be maintained. There is currently vegetation covering the road.

Mr Le Cerf addressed this issue and discussed the relationship with the Roadside Conservation Group and what is required to be undertaken.

**4.5 WOOGENELLUP ROAD – WIDENING – MR ADAMS**

Mr Adams made comment that three quarters of the road has been widened apart from the narrowest part of the road from Kamballup to Piepers' and questioned council's Road Maintenance Fund.

Mr Le Cerf responded to this issue and advised that the final part of the road to Kamballup is scheduled in the next financial year and therefore the road will then be complete.

**4.6 NATIVE VEGETATION – MR KELLY**

Mr Kelly mentioned that he had heard that owners of land in the new subdivision on Craddock Road were not permitted to clear natural timber and there is a potential fire risk.

Mr Duncan responded and advised that this zoning is rural. Mr Duncan advised that there would be a requirement to maintain adequate fire protection however this matter would need to be addressed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

**4.7 CHLORINATION OF TRUCK WASH WATER – SALEYARDS – MR KELLY**

Mr Kelly asked whether truck wash water at the saleyards was being chlorinated.

Mr Fathers responded and advised that this facility hasn't been used to any large extent although technically it is possible, there hasn't been a need.

**4.8 WETLAND PLAN FOR HIGHWAY – MR JENSEN**

Mr Jensen asked what plans are in place for the Albany Highway/railway line wetland in Mount Barker.

Ms Selesnew responded and advised that planning includes contracting the services of a landscape architect, prevention of nutrient stripping, raised walkways, paths and a general upgrade of the whole area to be more visually appealing.

**4.9 SCHOOL SITE – MR JENSEN**

Mr Jensen made comment that he wrote a letter regarding his home and the old school site and work was carried out almost immediately. Mr Jensen praised the responsiveness of the Work's Staff.

**4.10 CARBON PLANTATIONS – MR WILLIAMSON**

Mr Williamson asked whether the Shire had any responsibility for the management of carbon plantations and the disappearance of small towns and communities.

Mr Duncan responded and spoke to the Town Planning Scheme Planning Vision which includes that the Shire of Plantagenet will not support plantations south of the Stirling Range National Park unless for agroforestry ( including shelter belts).

**4.11 SALEYARDS – MR ADAMS**

Mr Adams asked whether there is any information regarding the State Government alleviating the Shire of Plantagenet's debt in relation to the Cattle saleyards.

The Shire President responded and advised that although there was much talk, there was no confirmation as yet.

**5 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

7.35pm      There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting. He invited all those in attendance to join him for refreshments in the Committee Room.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE .... /...../.....