



ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES

Annual Meeting Of Electors
held in the Council Chambers
8.00pm Wednesday 17 December 2008

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

8.05PM The Presiding Member, Shire President Cr K Forbes AM, 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

Cr K Forbes	Shire President - Rocky Gully / West Ward
Cr S Grylls	Rocky Gully / West Ward
Cr J Mark	Town Ward
Cr K Clements	Town Ward

Staff

Mr R Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Mr J Fathers	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Ian Bartlett	Manager Works and Services
Mr P Duncan	Manager Development Services
Ms N Selesnew	Manager Community Services
Mrs K Skinner	Executive Secretary

Members Of The Public

Bertha Steicke
Stephen Jennings
Rob Olver
Lisa Braun
Peter Form
Heather Skinner
Scott Drummond

Apologies

Cr J Moir	South Ward
Cr B Hollingworth	Town Ward
Cr M Skinner	East Ward
Lyn Forbes	
David Williss	
Yvonne Butcher	

3 RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr J Mark, seconded Cr S Grylls:

That the 2007/2008 Shire of Plantagenet Annual Report be received.

CARRIED

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 MEDICAL CENTRE - UPDATE

The Council's Manager of Community Services Ms Nicole Selesnew presented a Medical Centre Update.

She noted that the construction of the medical centre was on schedule, progressing well and on budget.

A question was raised regarding the reserve on the north side of Langton Road opposite the Medical Centre. The question related to whether this land would be kept as a Reserve or if it was going to be made available for parking.

The answer was provided that the Council was not aware of any development in that vicinity except for some trail developments and that parking for the Medical Centre would all be onsite.

In response to a further question, the Shire President explained the financing of the Medical Centre included State and Federal grants, selling of some Council assets and a \$200,000.00 interest free loan from the Bendigo Community Bank.

It was also noted that the Doctors who would be leasing the building would be permitted to sub-lease to visiting specialists and the like.

4.2 HACC - UPDATE

Ms Nicole Selesnew – Manager Community Services presented a Home and Community Care update.

Ms Selesnew noted that there have been some hold ups with contractors but that the verandahs were arriving on Monday 22 December 2008 for installation in the New Year with an opening planned for the end of January 2009. Ms Selesnew noted that the project was on budget.

4.3 GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATTLE SALEYARDS UPDATE

The Shire President presented a Saleyards update. He indicated that he had been meeting with other interested parties including the Shire of Katanning and Transport operators regarding the State Saleyard Strategy and the proposal by the State Government to purchase the Katanning and Mount Barker Saleyards. The Shire President indicated that he was optimistic that this would happen and noted that Plantagenet was the second biggest saleyard on volume in the State after the Midland Saleyards.

4.4 SOUTHERN BY-PASS UPDATE

The Council's Manager of Works and Services Mr Ian Bartlett noted that the Southern By-Pass update had been delayed because of rain but that 1.8kms would be ready to seal in January 2009. He noted that the railway crossing area would not be completed by WestNet rail until April 2009 and further progress could not be made until this had occurred. Mr Bartlett advised that this project cost was in the vicinity of \$1.5million with 2/3 being funded by the previous government and 1/3 by the Council.

In response to a question from a member of the public Mr Bartlett noted that the Mount Barker-Porongurup Road proposed roadworks and all other roadworks would be completed by June 2009 and would try to avoid any carryover of works.

In response to a further question about subdivision applications in Narrikup Mr Peter Duncan, the Council's Manager Development Services said that he was not aware of any subdivision applications for Narrikup.

4.5 ROADSIDE VEGETATION CLEARING

Mr Stephen Jennings advised that he wanted his presentation recorded in the Minutes and they are attached.

Mr Ian Bartlett Manager Works and Services noted that the Council had undertaken roadside clearing along a number of roads within the district. He noted that this work was done with either a permit issued or within the maintenance zone for each road.

In response to a question from a member of the public regarding the value of roadside conservation it was noted that, in the Council's opinion, road reserves were primarily designed for transport.

It was also noted that the Roadside Conservation Council had been to Plantagenet to undertake a roadside vegetation strategy.

It was also noted that training for staff in roadside conservation would be occurring in February 2009.

It was also noted that a roadside conservation workshop had been held with Councillors and that the Council's existing policy would be reviewed in the new year with a Consultant most likely to be appointed and policies from other Councils to be investigated.

The Shire President noted that he believed that some individuals and groups were working against the Council to prevent roadworks being completed to the necessary standard for safe and effective transport.

It was noted that with regard to Millinup Road the matter was under appeal with the Department of Environment and Conservation and an answer was expected in the New Year, clearing of Millinup Road would be twelve metres consisting of a six metre running surface and three metre drainage area (back slope) either side.

The Chief Executive Officer, in response to a question indicated that the Council was not considering the appointment of an Environment Officer.

4.6 INVESTMENT POLICY

The Council's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mr John Fathers presented a brief explanation of the Council's Investment Policy. He noted that the policy had been reviewed at the most recent ordinary meeting of the Council and that the Council had resolved to continue to support the Bendigo Bank with the placement of all excess funds even though this would result in the payment (through a reduced interest rate) of the Federal Government Deposit Guarantee.

4.7 WARD BOUNDARIES

The Chief Executive Officer presented a brief report regarding the abolition of ward boundaries for the October 2009 general elections.

He noted that the present wards were proposed to be abolished but that a response from the Government had not yet been received regarding this. He noted that Councillors who had further terms to serve should be permitted to serve those terms.

Mrs H Skinner asked how many Councils had abolished the ward System. The Shire President advised 60 Councils and that the voting would still be preferential.

4.8 ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

The Shire President noted that the Council had received a \$100,000.00 grant from the Federal Government and a grant of \$1,071,000.00 under the Royalties for Regions Scheme.

4.9 TOWN HALL

It was noted that the town hall had some leaks. The Chief Executive Officer noted that these leaks were being attended to.

4.10 MANAGEMENT OF TIMBER PLANTATIONS

In response to a question regarding the fire management of Timber Plantations Ms Selesnew noted that responses had been forwarded, meetings held and that a new draft policy had been received recently.

Mr Peter Form advised that he was extremely worried about the fuel build up in Plantations in the Porongurup and wanted his concern minuted.

4.11 MANAGEMENT OF WASTE

In response to a question Mr John Fathers noted that the cost of refuse site maintenance for the Shire in 2007/2008 was \$310,000.00.

It was noted from the floor that there was some confusion whether large landholders could dump rubbish on their own land.

The Chief Executive Officer indicated that he would investigate this further.

The Chief Executive Officer also advised that the Council's Ranger follows up on illegal dumping of rubbish in Reserves and that the Council was looking at an alternative waste disposal site within the Shire of Plantagenet.

4.12 SPEED LIMITS IN AND AROUND MOUNT BARKER

It was noted that the Council supported the 90km speed zone on Woogenellup Road near the Mount Barker Community College and railway crossing and supported a reduction in the speed limit adjacent to O'Neill Road on Albany Highway.

5 CLOSURE OF MEETING

9.38 There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting. In response Mr Scott Drummond thanked the Council for ensuring that the Annual Electors Meeting was successful and an open forum. He also thanked the Council for its support of Tourism.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE: .../.../...**