



ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES

Annual Meeting Of Electors
held in the Council Chambers
8.00pm Thursday 21 February 2008

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

8.08pm The Presiding Member, Shire President Cr K Forbes, declared the meeting open.

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

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESPresent

Cr K Forbes	Shire President - Rocky Gully / West Ward
Cr M Skinner	East 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 P Duncan	Manager Development Services
Ms N Selesnew	Manager Community Services

Members Of The Public

Arthur and Sue Patterson
Tony and Dawn Kelly
David Williamson
David Williss

Apologies

Cr J Moir	South Ward
Cr B Hollingworth	Town Ward
Joan Cameron	
Harry Reeves	
Pam Sounness	

3 RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr K Clements, seconded Cr J Mark:

That the 2006 / 2007 Shire of Plantagenet Annual Report be received.

CARRIED

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 LIBRARY SERVICES

Mr Arthur Patterson queried a comment that the community ‘..did not want a purpose built library..’.

The Shire President responded saying that he believed that the community had no objections to a purpose built library provided that it was at the same location as the present library. Councillor Forbes noted that plans were being considered to build a library adjacent to the Council Administration Office in Lowood Road but that the lot earmarked for that purpose had now been beautified with lawn and garden.

4.2 HACCC - UPDATE

Ms Nicole Selesnew – Manager Community Services gave a brief report on the progress of the Home and Community Care extension to the rear of the Plantagenet District Hall in Memorial Road (formerly Muir Street) Mount Barker.

Ms Selesnew noted that plans were well underway and that the building should be completed in June / July 2008.

4.3 MEDICAL CENTRE – UPDATE

Ms Selesnew advised the meeting that land had been made available in Marmion Street Mount Barker for the new Medical Centre. She noted that funding had largely been finalised although the Council was still awaiting news on whether a Regional Infrastructure Funding Program (RIF) grant had been successful.

At the conclusion of Ms Selesnew’s talk Mrs Dawn Kelly asked whether the Council could consider older people in the community who still drove vehicles by making parking spaces the same size as a disabled car parking bay.

4.4 GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATTLE SALEYARDS UPDATE

The Shire President noted that the Saleyards in Mount Barker had now been operating for eight years and that the Council now owned the entire operation. He noted that as part of the State Saleyards Strategy an opportunity had presented itself for the saleyards to be sold so that the Council would be able to pay out all debt relating to the saleyards plus a capital contribution. Councillor Forbes noted that in his opinion this would be a good outcome as it would halve the Council’s loan indebtedness thereby freeing up working capital

for other projects. He noted that if the sale occurred it may happen this calendar year.

Mr David Williamson queried whether it would be better to have the debt relieved but for the Council to retain ownership.

The Shire President responded that if the sale didn't happen the Council could retain ownership but with debt reduction. However, he believed that the preferred option would be to sell.

Councillor Skinner noted if the sale did happen the yards were still very important from a regional point of view and as part of the State Saleyards Strategy.

Mr David Williss queried environmental issues at the saleyards.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that although progress was slower that we would have liked it was nevertheless proceeding smoothly.

Mr David Williamson queried the economic impact of saleyards in general.

The Chief Executive Officer responded that the economic impact had been examined when the Council was considering purchasing the yards and formed part of the Business Plan.

The Chief Executive Officer further noted that the WA Meat Industry Authority had recently forwarded to the Council figures on the economic impact of saleyards.

4.5 NORTHERN BY-PASS UPDATE

The Chief Executive Officer noted that the Mount Barker Northern By-Pass was almost finished and would be opened around Easter 2008. He noted that work was progressing well but had been delayed recently.

The Shire President also noted passing lanes to be constructed on Muirs Highway.

Mr David Williamson queried whether extra plantings could be done in Albany Highway adjacent to the roundabout.

The Chief Executive Officer noted that the project was a Main Roads project but that this could be passed onto Main Roads and the Landscape architect who designed the plantings for the roundabout.

4.6 SOUTHERN BY-PASS UPDATE

The Shire President gave an update on the Narrikup Southern By-pass. He noted significant moneys of \$1m had been received, enabling the project to proceed immediately. As part of the \$1m grant the Council had to contribute \$500,000. The Shire President noted that all land purchases necessary for the by-pass had almost been completed.

4.7 TIMBER HARVESTING – DEBRIS FIRE HAZARD

Mr Arthur Patterson noted that with a great deal of timber harvesting happening at present, the debris left behind created a fire hazard.

The Shire President responded that the various brigades were aware of this issue.

4.8 ROADSIDE VEGETATION

Mr David Williamson, in his capacity of Chair of the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, queried the Council on its roadside vegetation strategy and asked that his group be kept informed of where the Council is at.

The Chief Executive Officer noted that the Council had engaged the Roadside Conservation Council to undertake a Roadside Vegetation Strategy in June 2008 and that as part of this strategy an education component had been included, especially for Council's staff.

Mr Williamson noted that the Oyster Harbour Group would be willing to assist the Shire wherever possible.

4.9 STRATEGIC RECREATION PLAN

Mr Williamson queried at what stage the Council's Strategic Recreation Plan was at.

The Chief Executive Officer noted that briefs had been forwarded to recreation consultants and that the closing date for these is 3 March 2008.

5 CLOSURE OF MEETING

9.03pm There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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