



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
8.00 pm Tuesday 9 February 2010.

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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

The Shire President welcomed all members of the public, Councillors and staff to the meeting. He apologised that due to the severe electrical storm experienced earlier in the day, only partial lighting of the Chambers was available.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present

Cr Ken Clements	Shire President
Cr Michael Skinner	Deputy Shire President (arrived at 8.20pm)
Cr Brett Bell	Councillor
Cr Sue Etherington JP	Councillor
Cr Simon Grylls	Councillor
Cr Len Handasyde	Councillor
Cr Gert Messmer	Councillor

Staff

Mr Rob Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Fathers	Deputy Chief Executive Officer (arrived at 8.20pm)
Mr Dominic Le Cerf	Manager Works and Services
Mr Peter Duncan	Manager Development Services
Ms Nicole Selesnew	Manager Community Services
Ms Cherie Delmage	Accountant

Members Of The Public

Mark Adams
Heather Skinner
Bill Hollingworth
Scott Drummond
Deb Nye-Chart
Kevin M Forbes AM (Freeman of the Municipality)
Tony Kelly
Fiona Messmer
Iris Messmer

Apologies

Cr Jeff Moir
Cr Michael Skinner
Cr Andrus Budrikis
Mr John Fathers

3 RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Cr G Messmer, seconded Mr K M Forbes AM:

That the 2008/2009 Shire of Plantagenet Annual Report be received.

CARRIED

3.1 ADDRESS BY SHIRE PRESIDENT

Shire President Cr Ken Clements thanked Mr Kevin Forbes AM for his efforts over the years as Councillor and Shire President.

He also thanked Mr John Mark, Mr Bill Hollingworth and Mrs Deb Nye-Chart for the time they were on the Council.

The Shire President advised that the annual report was late as the auditors had not signed off until December 2009.

The Shire President spoke briefly to his report as printed in the Annual Report including elections, local government reform, new Home and Community Care (HACC) building, new Medical Centre, new Mount Barker Cemetery, the transfer of the Child Care Centre from the Shire to Wanslea Family Services, Mount Barker Community Centre, Recreation Planning, footpaths in Kendenup, skate parks (Kendenup and Mount Barker), playground equipment for Narrikup and Rocky Gully, Waste Disposal including a proposed new site, Spencer Road, Porongurup Road, Sunday Trading and abolition of ward boundaries.

The Shire President also raised the issue of sustainability, in particular financial sustainability, and referred to the State Government's recent audit of all Local Governments' financial and operational systems. The Shire of Plantagenet was awarded a score of 1, the highest score possible, along with 30 other Local Government authorities. The Shire was the smallest centre to gain a rating of 1.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 MOUNT BARKER TOURIST BUREAU: MRS NYE-CHART

Mrs Nye-Chart asked for an update on the Visitors Centre and the relationship between the Centre and the Shire.

The Shire President responded noting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been signed today and that the relationship between the two bodies was unchanged. The Shire is continuing to support the Visitors Centre financially.

4.2 WOOGENELLUP ROAD: MR MARK ADAMSWoogenellup Road - Tree Lopping and Road Widening

Mr Le Cerf advised that an application had been submitted to the Regional Road Group for completion of the Woogenellup Road widening program for 2010 / 2011. The application would be considered at the next Regional Road Group meeting.

North Woogenellup Road – Gravel re-sheeting

Mr Le Cerf advised that the gravel re-sheeting of sections of North Woogenellup Road were scheduled for 2010 / 2011 and that consultation would occur with the land owners along the road regarding the most appropriate areas for gravel re-sheeting works.

4.3 MOBILE SERVICE COVERAGE AREA: MR MARK ADAMS

Mr Adams was advised that despite lobbying from the Shire and local emergency service groups, no advancement had been made with improving mobile phone coverage in the Shire.

4.4 PLAQUE – DR CHRISTOPHER BOURKE: MR TONY KELLY

Mr Kelly asked the Council to consider naming the Plantagenet Medical Centre after Dr Christopher Bourke to recognise the contribution from him to the local community. The CEO advised that this would be investigated.

4.5 PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT PLANS: MR SCOTT DRUMMOND

Mr Drummond enquired about the progress of the playground design plans for Centenary/Wilson Parks. He was advised that the draft plan had been recently presented and the final plan was due in two weeks' time.

4.6 APPLE PACKING SHED: MR SCOTT DRUMMOND

Mr Drummond was advised that the Heritage Council was believed to have received funding to carry out a study regarding possible uses for the Apple Packing Shed (former Dysons wool shed). This report was due in April.

4.7 TIP SHOP: MR SCOTT DRUMMOND

Mr Drummond was advised that the provision of a tip shop was still being investigated.

4.8 STRUCTURAL REFORM: CR MICHAEL SKINNER

Cr Skinner informed the meeting of the outcome of the structural reform meeting held in Perth at Ascot Race course today. Cr Skinner said that Minister Castrilli spoke well although the majority of Councils were against amalgamations. Mr Fathers – Deputy Chief Executive Officer will provide the Council with a report on the outcomes.

4.9 GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CATTLE SALEYARDS: MR TONY KELLY

Mr Kelly asked if the Great Southern Regional Cattle Saleyards were going to break even or make a profit. Mr Kelly was advised that the Council was looking at ways to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

The only reason the saleyards is running at a loss is because of the loans required to purchase the facility from Albany. The meeting was advised that the Council did not want to sell to a private investor as it was not viable without a subsidy.

He was advised that the Council was awaiting a Cabinet submission which should be before Cabinet in late March, and hopefully a decision would be made by early June.

4.10 GREAT SOUTHERN PLANTATION RATES: MR KEVIN FORBES AM (FREEMAN)

Mr Forbes AM was advised that the sale of Great Southern Limited to Gunns has not been completed and the companies are still negotiating whether the sale will include the transfer of land or not. Rates outstanding on the properties are still outstanding.

5 CLOSURE OF MEETING

8:45pm There being no further business, the Shire President thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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