



SHIRE

of

DANDARAGAN

MINUTES

OF

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

HELD AT THE

DANDARAGAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

ON

THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2008

COMMENCING AT 6.05 PM

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President declared the meeting open at 6.05pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Councillors:

Councillor S Love (President)
Councillor M Russell
Councillor D Kent
Councillor L Smith
Councillor J Nelson
Councillor K McGlew
Councillor C Underwood
Councillor K Loveland

Staff:

Mr C Strugnell (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr I Rennie (Deputy Chief Executive Officer)
Mr G Harris (Manager Technical Services and Works)
Mr S Geere (Manager Building Services)
Mr S Clayton (Manager Finance and Administration)
Mrs M Rourke (Manager Environmental Health)

Electors / Members of the Public:

Mr J Cook, Mrs M Johnson, Mrs S Harris, Mr M Hewlett, Mr I Oliver, Mr J Arnold, Ms J Mondello, Ms R Stroud, Ms L Carruthers, Mr Grant Woodhams MP, Mr J Brown, Mrs K Roberts

3. APOLOGIES

Councillor L Short, Mr M Kenny, Cervantes Ratepayers Association Committee

4. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

The President introduced the new Manager Building Services Mr Scott Geere, Manger Finance and Administration Mr Scott Clayton, Manager Environmental Health Mrs Melissa Rourke and Councillor Kaye McGlew.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Annual General Meeting of Electors held 7 February 2007

Moved: Cr Nelson / Seconded: Cr Russell
That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 7 February 2007 as circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6. RECEIVING OF THE 2006/07 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report incorporated the following:

- President's Report
- Chief Executive Officer's Report
- Auditor's Report
- Annual Financial Statements
- Works, Services and Plant Report
- Community Services Report

Moved: Mr J Cook / Seconded: Cr Loveland
That the Annual Report for the year 2006/07 as presented be received.

CARRIED

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Opening of Dandaragan office

Mr J Cook expressed appreciation for the decision of Council in retaining the opening of the Dandaragan office and for allowing a review to be undertaken with the respect of opening hours. Mr Cook also expressed his appreciation for the implementation of the drainage plan at the J C Grieve Sports Ground.

7.2 Fire fighting matters

Mr J Cook advised that the Dandaragan office was a valuable facility from a communication point of view when fires are being fought throughout the Shire.

Mrs Shirley Harris commented that it was common sense that when fires are being fought in a particular area those locals who live in that area and have knowledge of the area should be able to have input into the fighting of fires. She expressed concern about the necessity to complete paperwork when fighting fires and that possibly valuable time could be wasted. The Department of Environment and Conservation and Fire and Emergency Services should be more involved in strategic matters such as fire breaks.

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Mrs K Roberts requested advice as to whether Council was still providing graders for fighting of bush fires.

The President advised that graders were still available from the Shire.

Mr M Hewlett advised that at the fire which occurred on 13 February 2008, there had been a long delay in getting a loader to the fire for the use of installation of fire breaks. A farm loader had to be used. Mr Hewlett queried whether it was possible for a claim to be made by the private owner of the equipment for its use.

The Chief Executive Officer advised if the use was authorised by a Fire Control Officer then the owner is able to claim for the use of the equipment which is covered by the Shire's Bush Fire Insurance.

7.3 Regans Ford rest area

Mrs L Carruthers requested comment from Council with regard to the use of the Regans Ford rest area and the installation of toilets by Main Roads Western Australia. The rest area is being utilised for overnight camping and the area is subject to flooding and the toilets are not cleaned on a regular basis. She queried about what Council could do to remove the toilets as the Regans Ford Caravan Park business is suffering.

The President advised that Council could write to Main Roads and request advice and consider possible removal of the toilets. Council will need to consider the issue at a future meeting.

Mr I Oliver raised the issue of the health aspect of utilising the toilets in the vicinity of the Moore River as the area was subject to flooding.

The President advised that Main Roads have control over the area and it can only be assumed that the installation of the toilets was authorised.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council staff can not manage the area on a regular basis due to the distance to be travelled in order to service the rest area.

Mr Grant Woodhams MLA advised that he is willing to write a letter of support to the Commissioner for Main Roads.

Ms J Mondello advised that farmers are not permitted to work in the vicinity of water ways so why can it be done by Main Roads Western Australia at Regans Ford.

Mrs Carruthers advised that farmers were made to fence off areas from rivers in order to restrict access by stock.

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Mr J Cook advised that the Regans Ford rest area was shown in most caravan and camping books as a rest area.

7.4 Parking at Dandaragan Store

Mrs M Johnson explained problems relating to parking at the Dandaragan Store particularly on the Dandaragan Road.

The Manager Technical Services and Works advised that it was not the Shire's responsibility with the regard to the parking at the Dandaragan Store and further that the Shire will be reconstructing the Dandaragan Road in the vicinity and will attempt to improve the current parking situation.

7.5 Dandaragan Road footpath

Mrs S Harris requested advice as to when the footpath would be extended from the vicinity of the St John Ambulance building up to the Dandaragan Community Recreation Club.

The Manager Technical Services and Works advised that the works were proposed to commence in the next financial year.

7.6 Camm Road

Mrs M Johnson requested advice with regard to the problem of trucks particularly the rubbish truck having difficulty in turning at the end of Camm Road.

The Manager Technical Services and Works advised that a temporary turn around can be installed in order to allow trucks to use the road appropriately.

7.7 Employment of second Ranger

Mrs L Carruthers requested advice as to when the Shire will be employing a second Ranger.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that 90% of the Ranger's work was on the western side of the Brand Highway. Issues occurred more often in the coastal areas as a result of having a larger population. There had not been significant dog or parking problems in the towns of Dandaragan and Badgingarra. Once the coast road is constructed then the Shire will again consider the employment of a second Ranger but at this stage there is not a major demand in the rural areas of the Shire. Routine inspections are undertaken on a regular basis.

7.8 Council owned housing

Mr M Hewlett sought advice with respect of Shire staff being located in Shire owned housing. A number of houses are currently rented to private individuals.

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The President advised that it was Council's intention to replace some housing stock by purchasing of new houses and selling older houses.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Shire was selling two houses and one vacant lot this financial year.

7.9 Development of Dandaragan townsite

Mr J Cook requested advice with regard to the long term development of the Dandaragan townsite and whether a structure plan had been considered in order to attract interest from developers to subdivide within the town.

The President advised that Council had been considering these issues.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised that a private subdivision was occurring in the Dandaragan townsite and that Council was reluctant in becoming involved at this time pending the outcome of the private subdivisions.

Mr I Oliver advised that development of residential land in the Dandaragan townsite would some what relieve the pressure currently being experienced by the metropolitan area.

7.10 Rates discount

Advice has been received from the Cervantes Ratepayers and Progress Association that it does not support the reduction of discount from 10% to 5% as Council has been considering this issue.

The President advised that Council makes a decision on the discount percentage on an annual basis as part of the budget process. A Members Motion had been submitted for Council to consider a reduction of the discount from 10% to 5%. Council has not reached a decision on this issue currently.

Councillors Nelson, Smith and Russell explained their private view point with regard to this issue.

8. SUMMATION

8.1 President summation

The President thanked those ratepayers who had attended tonight's meeting and thanked Councillors and staff for their input during the 2006/07 financial year.

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8.2 Vote of thanks

Mr J Cook expressed his appreciation to Council on behalf of ratepayers for the works undertaken during the 2006/07 financial year and commented on this being the last Annual General Meeting of Electors required to be held by this Council.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The President closed the meeting at 7.12pm.

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting on.....27/3/08.....

Signed..........

Presiding person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

Date.....27/3/08.....