



MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

held on

Wednesday, 21 December 2016

Commencing at 7.37pm

Seniors Room, Donnybrook Community Library
Emerald Street, Donnybrook

Ben Rose
Chief Executive Officer

10 January 2017

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Please note this agenda contains recommendations, which have not yet been adopted by Council.



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21 December 2016

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SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES

held at the Seniors Room, Donnybrook Community Library
Wednesday, 21 December 2016 commencing at 7.37pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Logiudice (President)
Cr Bailey
Cr Dilley
Cr Crowley
Cr King
Cr Mitchell
Cr Tan
Cr Van Der Heide

SHIRE OFFICERS:

B Rose – Chief Executive Officer
G Harris - Manager Finance and
Administration
D Morgan – Manager Works and Services
L Guthridge – Manager Development and
Environmental Services
B Wallin – Principal Planner
J Shelley – Facility Manager

APOLOGIES

Cr Mills (Deputy President) – Approved Leave
Brian Piesse

ELECTORS:

H Tuia	L Tuia	J Russell
B Green	J Wringe	S McInnes
J Scott	C Valenzeula	D Rossini
M Woodley	M Terrace	S Radford
I Kemp	L Dale	C Sharp
J Atherton	A Keall	M Huitenga
M Atherton	N Gubler	M Rossini
J Betti	J Wringe	WJ Wringe
L Robins	R Atherton	S Attwood
N Fry	P McCabe	

OPENING

The President welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and introduced fellow Councillors.

1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved:

Seconded:

That the minutes of the Electors Meeting held on 10 December 2015 be confirmed.

These minutes were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 10 February 2016.

2 ANNUAL REPORT

The format of the Annual Report aligns to Council's Community Strategic Plan.

2.1 President's Report

The President to present his report for the 2015/16 year and invite questions from those in attendance.

Moved:

Seconded:

That the President's Report for 2015/16 year be received.

Mr Tuia proposed the President's Report not be accepted on the basis that the grant figures in the Shire President's report were incorrect. Mr Tuia indicated that Tuia Lodge received approximately \$2.1 Million in grant funding, not the \$2.6 Million referred to in the Shire Presidents report.

Moved: Mr Tuia

Seconded: Mr Sharp

That the report not be accepted until amended.

Carried 22/0

2.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report for the 2015/16 year.

Moved: Mr Neville Fry Seconded: Ms Lynne Robins

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report for 2015/16 year be received.

Carried 28/0

2.3 Annual Financial Report & Audit Report

The Manager of Finance and Administration provided a brief overview of the 2015/2016 Annual Financial Report and responded to questions on the financial statements.

Moved: Mrs Sue Attwood Seconded: Mr Steve Russell

That the Annual Financial Report and Audit Report for the 2015/16 year be received.

Carried 22/0

2.4 Annual Report

Moved: Mr Peter McCabe Seconded: Mrs Mary Rossini

That the Annual Report for the 2015/16 year be received.

Carried 15/0

There being no other questions in regard to the Annual Report the President called for items of General Business.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

QUESTION TAKEN WITH NOTICE:

Mr D and M Rossini (56/58 Victoria Pde, Donnybrook)

We bought our home in Victoria Parade Donnybrook in 2003. Our only concern about the area was the open drain along the front of our street. We asked at an electors

meeting soon after when they would be finished as covered drains, as they had been in other sectors of the shire. We were advised they were not in the current budget, but were being covered in progressively as funds allow.

Thirteen years later our question remains the same: When will the open drains in Victoria Parade be finished properly, covered and the road kerbed.

We feel it is not only a matter of amenity, but also of safety. Our neighbour has had two separate visitors on stormy nights accidentally reverse into the ditch and need to be towed out. Kerbs would have alerted them.

If you parked on the roadside in front of our place a passenger stepping out is at real risk of serious injury or death.

We have raised this question again and again verbally with shire employees with various responses. One time our drain was part filled by large gravel rocks --making it even more dangerous. Another time they dug it out a bit deeper. A third time we were told there were higher priority areas of the shire.

We look forward to a response with a real plan given we have been waiting a long time for kerbed, safe roads along our street.

Manager Works and Services

The Shire has a number of local roads constructed to a similar standard as exists on the upper sections of Victoria Parade in Donnybrook.

Presently, the Shire's forward works program does not propose the upgrading of these local access roads, including the upper sections of Victoria Parade.

The Shire has upgraded some other local roads in recent years, after consideration of factors such as:

- Existing condition;
- Volume of traffic;
- Predicted traffic growth; and
- Linkages to other nodes of activity.

Apart from provision of access to properties, Victoria Lane has limited other factors to achieve a higher priority when assessed against other roads throughout the Shire.

QUESTIONS TAKEN WITHOUT NOTICE:

L Tuia

Every year we have a Special Financial Report for Tuia Lodge, Where is it this year?

Manager Finance and Administration

The Information has been provided in the General Purpose Finance Report. In the past we have provided a line by line summary of all the Service Areas however this year it was not included in the Annual Report.

L Tuia

Why was the Resident Trust Fund for the Residents not included in the report?

Manager Finance and Administration

The Resident Bonds have been included in the General Purpose Finance Report. There is also a note included in the Shire's Annual Financial Report detailing the balance of all trust accounts.

L Tuia

What has happened to the donation bequeathed by the Jack Denning Estate?

Manager Finance and Administration

The money has been used as instructed by the estate. There may be money held in the Trust Fund which will have to be drawn down.

L Tuia

The Executors would like confirmation regarding the use of the donation.

Manager Finance and Administration

I am happy to discuss this with them.

S Russell

How is Tuia Lodge tracking now, given the extra beds and changes over the past two years?

Manager Finance and Administration

Funding has steadily increased. The Facility Manager has been applying the Aged Care Funding Instrument which has steadily improved the operating revenue. The facility is working towards a \$200,000 cash surplus per month.

D Rossini

The drains on Victoria Parade are dangerous. Each time it rains they get filled with mud from the top of the hill. When I first approached the Shire on this matter the drain got filled with rocks. It's dangerous, if there is an accident who is responsible?

Chief Executive Officer

This question will be taken on notice.

F Haygarth

Collie Council have been recording their meetings for the past twenty years, Why is our Council reluctant to record meetings?

Shire President

A recording system was previously set up in the Council Chambers and will be installed in the Old Church once this building is ready to be utilised as the Shire's Council Chambers.

J Wringe

Tuia Lodge former employees have left afraid that the premises are not being run properly. I have spoken to the volunteers who have left because they weren't happy with how things are being run. What have you done about repairing problems at Tuia Lodge?

Shire President

I am not aware of any incidents. We have an obligation to take action on all reported incidents.

J Wringe

The Volunteers and Staff are afraid to take their concerns further. They were initially prepared to speak up but are fearful of the consequences.

Chief Executive Officer

I would welcome these discussions in confidence.

J Betti

Some of the Friends of Tuia volunteers have met with the Chief Executive Officer and Facility Manager and were not happy with their responses at the time. We sent a letter to all of the Councillors and haven't received one reply. Obviously you don't want to use the bus. It won't be long before you lose all of the volunteers.

Shire President

I cannot comment in this forum however I would like the opportunity to engage with the Volunteers regarding their concerns.

J Wringe

Why doesn't the Shire support the True Grit event instead of putting up hurdles for the event managers? It would be good to see the event stay in the Shire. If it was the Small Farm Field Day or a Donnybrook based event it would garner more support. True Grit may not be managed by a local group but it brings people to the Shire.

Shire President

I agree with you.

G Atherton

I want to take up the offer to meet with Councillors and talk about what's going on with the volunteers at Tuia Lodge. How often do you go up to Tuia Lodge? If Tuia Lodge is going to be bigger and better in the future it's going the wrong way.

C Sharp

I wrote to you about my cousin. I received a letter on 4 November 2016 stating that the Facility Manager would investigate and report to me. It's now 21 December 2016 and I have not received a report. What are your rules on checking on the Facility Manager, Staff and Residents? How often are you physically on the premises in this rural community? You are responsible.

Shire President

Council has a governance role at Tuia Lodge.

C Sharp

How often have you been up there to speak to the residents?

Shire President

I visit, but not on a regular basis.

Chief Executive Officer

I visit two to three times a week for about an hour to an hour and a half. I speak to the residents and engage in the activities when I am visiting.

L Tuia

The Inspire Report provided a glowing report on Tuia Lodge at the time it was prepared. Since then how many people have come and gone from Tuia Lodge?

Shire President

I will take your question on notice.

L Tuia

Cr Bailey did not support the transfer of land to Tuia lodge. The community if Donnybrook has lost a \$15 million dollar asset. The community of Donnybrook funded and built Tuia Lodge.

Cr Bailey

In September 2015 a motion was moved not to transfer the land to Tuia lodge.

L Tuia

Tuia Lodge was granted free title to the Board but this didn't happen.

Cr Bailey

The Tuia Lodge Board was an Incorporated Body. It wouldn't be appropriate to transfer the asset. We need to secure the asset for the community.

L Tuia

Tuia Lodge belongs to the community not the Council.

Cr Bailey

Council is the Approved Provider for Tuia Lodge.

June Scott

I would like to talk about branding of the Shire. We have two tourism organisations within the Shire. It would be good to see the Shire use an overall brand to develop and promote the Geographe region.

Shire President

The Bunbury Wellington and Boyup Brook Regional Tourism Strategy is commencing and is an opportunity to promote the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

June Scott

Balingup is known for it's scarecrows. This is an opportunity for Donnybrook to grow in strength but we need to act now.

Chief Executive Officer

I agree with you. The Shire could promote itself more widely on the opportunities within our region through branding and promoting ourselves with other tourism networks. The Regional Tourism Strategy will provide a good starting point.

J Wringe

I would like to see roadside firebreaks not be mandatory. They promote erosion and will rarely, if ever, stop a fire. Having a six foot fire break on a property would be useless if the Shire's roadside verges aren't cleared. We aren't allowed to clear them.

Manager Development and Environmental Services

The Shire reviews the Firebreak Order annually. There is no intention to change the Firebreak Order at this stage.

J Wringe

Parts of the Shires Roads have not been cleared for twenty years. Who is responsible for this?

Manager Development and Environmental Services

The Shire is responsible for those areas. A Bushfire Risk Management Plan is being developed to identify and mitigate high risk areas.

J Wringe

When tree limbs and trees fall onto the roads the Shire sweeps them off the road and leaves them on the verge side increasing fuel loads. They need to be burned or removed.

Manager Works and Services

The Shire has a policy on tree management which requires trees to be pushed onto the verge to promote a natural habitat. Removal of this vegetation is a higher level of service and would come at a cost.

J Wringe

Why not burn the verges during the winter?

Manager Works and Services

Approval processes need to be followed.

J Wringe

Identifying hotspots is a waste of time. We know what needs burning. Is the Bushfire Risk Management Plan Shire funded or 'Funny Money'?

Manager Development and Environmental Services

The program has been funded as a result of the recent bushfire disasters in WA.

S McGuinness

The Shire has a Policy establishing a 500 metre buffer zone around Donnybrook Stone with a restriction on subdivision and development within the buffer zone. This covers Irishtown Road, however a house on Grist Road got permission, costing the people \$750 so far. The policy (SKA4) is a bureaucratic hoop jumping exercise and should be removed. We should be able to apply to the Shire on merit and not have to go through the Mining Department.

Principal Planner

The example you refer to was a development request. It was considered by Council and approved. Subdivision requires planning permission.

S McGuinness

The purpose of a Special Controlled Area is what? Houses near the quarry already exist.

Principal Planner

It sets up to prevent additional land use conflict or future expansion in an area.

June Scott

What is the potential for all of this to be reviewed? There is a push to export Donnybrook Stone. A person has lost the ability to sell their land because of the Buffer Zone. It's affecting residents who want to subdivide. Can the buffer zone be absorbed into state government land?

Principal Planner

Council can resolve to review the Special Control Area however Council, the State Government and the Planning Commission would need to be convinced of the science and rationale behind the recommendation.

S McGuinness

So I still can't build a Granny Flat on my property?

Principal Planner
You can apply.

L Tuia

\$15,000 was donated to the Shire two years ago to build a bus stop and shelter at Meldene Estate. The park has not been maintained and the sprinklers are not working.

M Woodley

What qualifications does the Facility Manager have?

Shire President

This is staff related and cannot be responded to in this forum.

S Russell

Council decided over a year ago to take over the running of Tuia Lodge from the Board. It's a concern that, since this time, there has not been anything in place to engage the volunteers back to Tuia Lodge.

Shire President

I am in full support of engaging the Volunteers at Tuia Lodge.

S Russell

What has Council done about engaging new Volunteers?

Shire President

To date this opportunity has not been explored.

S Russell

What projects and major initiatives will Council deliver during 2016/17?

Shire President

The Shire is working on the delivery of a number of projects including:

- Upgrade of the Balingup Hall
- Preston River Footpath Extension
- Refurbishment of the Old Uniting Church
- Bunbury Wellington and Boyup Brook Regional Tourism Strategy
- Bridge Street Affordable Housing Project
- Donnybrook Recreation Centre
- Civic Central Business Plan
- Various Road Projects

Manager Works and Services

The road projects cannot be disclosed until the outcome of the application process is received.

D Rossini

How does the Shire check traffic volumes on roads?

Manager Works and Services

Traffic volume data is collected through the use of traffic counters. We have a number of them placed on roads around the Shire.

D Rossini

Have you personally visited Victoria Parade and viewed the road and the drains?

Manager Works and Services

Yes.

M Rossini

When compared to similar roads that have been upgraded, did they have the same amount of houses etc.?

Manager Works and Services

Some had more, some had less.

N Gubler

Referring back to last year's Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held in April, the committee recommended the brigade name change be held over to October for a resolution to be made. As a member of the Advisory Committee it felt like a slap in the face when our recommendation was ignored.

Shire President

Councillors have individual views on the resolutions.

N Gubler

The recommendation was made in April and then the Brigade name was changed in October?

Cr Bailey

The rates notices were already issued with Upper Balingup Bushfire Brigade. In the off-season the name was reviewed and got voted to change.

4 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The President thanked the electors for their input to the meeting and wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas.

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 9.01pm.

These Minutes were confirmed by the Electors as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on _____

Shire President		Presiding Member