



## **MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

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**Wednesday 20 January 2021**

5.00pm

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council Chamber, Donnybrook

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**Pursuant to Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a General Meeting of Electors is to be held within a local government district once every financial year.**

**Meeting advertised for public information as follows:**

- West Australian newspaper – 28 December 2021
- Notices posted on noticeboards, website and social media

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Rose', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ben Rose  
Chief Executive Officer**

**21 January 2021**

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**SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP**  
**MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

To be held at the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council Chambers  
Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 5.00pm

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / WELCOME BY SHIRE PRESIDENT**

**Shire President – Acknowledgment of Country**

The Shire President acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Wardandi People of the Noongar Nation, paying respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

The Shire Present declared the meeting open at 5.01pm and welcomed the public gallery.

**Shire President - Public Notification of Recording of Meetings**

The Shire President advises that the meeting is being digitally recorded to assist with minute taking in accordance with Council Policy 1.25. The Shire President further states the following:

*If you do not give permission for your participation to be recorded, please indicate this at the meeting. Members are reminded that no other visual or audio recording of this meeting by any other means is allowed without the permission of the Chairperson.*

**2 ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
Cr Brian Piesse (President)	Ben Rose – Chief Executive Officer
Cr Jackie Massey (Deputy President)	Damien Morgan – A/Executive Manager Operations
Cr Shane Atherton	Paul Breman – Executive Manager Corporate and Community
Cr Anita Lindemann	Jaimee Earl – Minute Taker
Cr Chaz Newman	
Cr Shane Sercombe	
Cr Chris Smith	

**PUBLIC GALLERY**

Gwendoline Nidd  
Rod Atherton  
Peter Hearman  
Mark Huitenga  
Kerrie Downes  
Shaun Nelson

Lucille Piesse  
Colin Sharp  
Jean Wringe  
Simon McInnes  
Bruce Hearman  
Tony Scaffidi

Clare Rosman  
Fred Mills  
Peter McCabe  
Mike King  
John Small

## **2.1 APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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Cr Mitchell, Cr Wringe, Lui Tuia and Steve Dilley submitted their apologies to the meeting.

## **3 PRESENTATION**

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The Shire President, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Manager Corporate and Community provided an overview presentation and a specific presentation in relation to the 2019/20 financial year.

## **4 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### **4.1 SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Annual Report for 2019/20, inclusive of the Shire President's Report, Chief Executive Officer's Report, Auditor's Report and Annual Financial Statements be received.**

#### **ELECTOR'S DECISION**

**Moved Cr Smith**

**Seconded Bruce Hearman**

**That the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Annual Report for 2019/20, inclusive of the Shire President's Report, Chief Executive Officer's Report, Auditor's Report and Annual Financial Statements be received.**

**CARRIED**

## **5 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **5.1 QUESTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO MEETING**

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Nil.

### **5.2 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS AT THE MEETING**

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Peter McCabe

*What is the budget for the Apple Fun Park revitalisation?*

Shire Response

A Federal grant for \$1,505,009 via the Building Better Regions Fund has been secured.

Tony Scaffidi

*In 1994 the arboretum was handed back to Council for full responsibility. 18 months ago it almost went to Kirup but was blocked. There is a committee of volunteers willing to do work at the arboretum, however Council has not allowed it. Why has Council knocked back these volunteers?*

Shire Response

We warmly welcome volunteers to assist and we have had communications with the ARBEX group. If members of the group participate in the Shire's mandatory safety induction we would be happy to see them on site.

Tony Scaffidi

*If the volunteers pull out, what is Council going to do?*

Shire Response

The Shire will manage the reserve within the budget and means available.

Fred Mills

*A volunteer waters and maintains street trees in Balingup in his own time and in his own vehicle, and has done for some time. If he pulls out will the Shire be able to provide this in Balingup as it does in other areas?*

Shire Response

We would have to look at the trees, their location, how much water is required and other watering options before providing advice.

Fred Mills

*The volunteer uses his own fuel and vehicle, but has been provided use of the Balingup water standpipe. He can do up to four trips a day so he has asked for use of a larger tank to carry water?*

Shire Response

The new Chair of the Balingup Progress Association has raised this matter with the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer and Shire President met with Minister Murray

yesterday and presented a list of funding projects for his incumbent's consideration heading into the State election – this funding opportunity was included in that discussion.

Colin Sharp

*How often do Councillors do a survey of rural roads? Charley Creek Road has not had proper drainage in three years.*

Shire Response

The Shire has a gravel road maintenance program that contains a significant amount of regular re-sheeting and maintenance grading. The summer grading takes off gravel and pushes to the side due to the lack of moisture. Winter grading brings the gravel back onto the road and reshapes with water for drainage. We have been noticing a regular reduction in works requests but continue to work within our resource constraints to deliver these services on gravel roads.

John Small

*To assist to reduce works and services costs spent on road construction and maintenance, has the Shire looked at contracting out services on rural roads as compared to using internal crews?*

Shire Response

Continuous review of service delivery is important and the Shire intends to review this, and other services, as a part of normal business processes.

John Small

*Do you know why traffic management were paid from 7am on Newlands Road when the first Shire employee did not show up until 8.40am?*

Shire Response

We would be happy to investigate if you could provide some further information following the meeting. There is a requirement for traffic management to be set up prior to work starting. We have also been dealing with vehicle movement bans so there could have been a number of factors involved.

Cr Shane Sercombe

*In a media release from the Chief Executive Officer and Shire President regarding the audit report delivering a positive outcome, the Chief Executive Officer stated the audit identified no instances of non-compliance. Is this correct?*

Shire Response

The audit was deemed a 'clean audit' (also called an 'unqualified audit') by the Officer of the Auditor General.

Cr Shane Sercombe

*The Auditor's Report states the following matters indicated non-compliance – 'asset renewal fund' – do you agree with is a mis-statement of the auditor's opinion?*

Shire Response

Please refer to the previous answer. The Office of the Auditor General, via AMD, provided the audit for the 2019/20 financial year.

Cr Shane Sercombe

*In the auditor report it states non-compliance with the Local Government Act. Given public inconsistencies what guarantee can be given that the media release and information provided is free of inconsistencies?*

Shire Response

Council has accepted the audit report/opinion and has no reason to doubt the advice from the Office of the Auditor General.

Cr Shane Sercombe

*Would the Chief Executive Officer and Shire President consider apologising and withdrawing the media release as it contradicts the Office of the Auditor General Report?*

Shire Response

Please refer to the previous responses.

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### **5.3 MOTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

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Decisions made by Electors at an Annual Electors Meeting are presented to a meeting of Council for consideration per Section 5.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, which reads:

*‘All decisions made at an electors’ meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting, or if that is not practicable, at the first ordinary council meeting after that meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, whichever happens first.’*

#### **ELECTOR’S DECISION**

**Moved Cr Atherton**

**Seconded Cr Massey**

**That the Shire Staff and Executive be congratulated on their presentation and performance at the meeting this afternoon.**

**CARRIED**

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## **5 CLOSURE**

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The Shire President advised that the next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on 24 February 2021 commencing at 5.00pm in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council Chamber.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 6.24pm and thanked the public gallery for their attendance and interest.