

SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's,
Merredin Tuesday, 24 October 2023
Commencing 4.00pm



Common Acronyms Used in this Document

CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CEACA	Central East Accommodation & Care Alliance Inc
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
EMS&C	Executive Manager Strategy & Community
ES	Executive Support Officer
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
GO	Governance Officer
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media and Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Manager of Projects
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils



October Ordinary Council Meeting

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Shire of Merredin
Ordinary Council Meeting
4:00pm Tuesday, 24 October 2023



1. Official Opening

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, and paid her respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged their continued connection and care for Country, land and waterways in this area.

The Chief Executive Officer then welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 4:04pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr B Anderson	
Cr D Crook	
Cr H Billing	
Cr R Manning	Via Zoom
Cr M McKenzie	
Cr M Simmonds	
Cr P Van Der Merwe	

Staff:

L Clack	CEO
A Tawfik	EMES
C Brindley-Mullen	EMS&C
L Boehme	EMCS
P Zenni	EMDS
M Wyatt	EO
K Swinwood	MO

Members of the Public:

Apologies:

Approved Leave of Absence:

Cr Manning's attendance via Zoom was approved by the previous Shire President in advance in accordance with Regulation 14C.2(b) of the Local Government (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2022.

3. Swearing In of Councillors Elect

In accordance with section 2.29 of the Local Government Act 1995, a person elected as a Councillor is to make a declaration in the prescribed form before acting in the Office.

The following Councillors came forward to be sworn in.

Councillor Bradley Anderson having been elected to the office of Councillor of the Shire of Merredin, declared that he would take the office upon himself and will duly, faithfully,

honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of his judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Councillor Hayley Billing having been elected to the office of Councillor of the Shire of Merredin, declared that she would take the office upon herself and will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of her judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Councillor Renee Manning undertook the swearing in the day prior to the meeting, in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed by reading into the record, that Councillor Renee Manning, having been elected to the office of Councillor of the Shire of Merredin, declared that she would take the office upon herself and will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of her judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Councillor Mark McKenzie having been elected to the office of Councillor of the Shire of Merredin, declared that he would take the office upon himself and will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of his judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Councillor Phil Van Der Merwe having been elected to the office of Councillor of the Shire of Merredin, declared that he would take the office upon himself and will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of his judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

All declarations were made in the presence of Ms Lisa Clack, Chief Executive Officer.

4. Election of President

Schedule 2.3, Division 1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that an election be conducted for the position of Shire President as the first item of business at the first meeting of Council following an ordinary local government election.

The Chief Executive Officer is to preside at the meeting until the office of Shire President is filled and is to act as Returning Officer for the electoral process. The election must be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

The election will be conducted as follows:

1. Nomination forms have been previously provided to all Councillors to assist with the election process and, where possible, should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Chief Executive Officer will, however, announce the closing time for the submission of nominations at the commencement of the meeting and will continue to receive nomination forms up until that time.
2. If a Councillor is nominated by another Councillor, then the Chief Executive Officer is not to accept the nomination unless the nominee has confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer, either verbally or in writing, that he or she is willing to be nominated for the office.

3. If more than one nomination is received, then Councillors will be required to vote on the matter by secret ballot, as if they were electors voting at an election. Positions on the ballot paper will be drawn at the meeting and ballot papers will be compiled and distributed at that time. Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
4. Once all votes have been cast, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast at an election.
5. For the purposes of clarity, a valid vote can only be cast by in person, so remote attendees cannot vote.
6. As soon as is practicable after the result of the election is known, the Chief Executive Officer will declare and give notice of the result.
7. If there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in the count, the count is to be discontinued and the meeting adjourned for not more than seven (7) days. At the resumption of the meeting, the voting process will recommence.
8. At this point, any nomination previously submitted may be withdrawn and new nominations will be received by the Chief Executive Officer up to a specified time.
9. If there is still more than one nomination for the position then Councillors will be required to vote again by secret ballot. New ballot papers will be prepared and distributed at that time and Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
10. Once all votes have been cast for a second time, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast in an election.
11. If there is still an equality of votes following the second count, then in accordance with schedule 4.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 77A of the *Local Government (Election) Regulations 1997*, the Chief Executive Officer will draw lots to determine which candidate is elected.

The result will be declared by the Chief Executive Officer. The successful candidate will be called upon to make their declaration of office in accordance with s2.29 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Constitution) Regulations 1998*, and will then assume the Chair as Presiding Member for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the meeting that she received 1 written nomination for the position of President, being for Councillor Mark McKenzie. She then called for further nominations from the floor.

As there were no further nominations made, Councillor Mark McKenzie was elected unopposed.

Cr McKenzie, having been elected to the office of Shire President of the Shire of Merredin, then declared that he takes the office and will duly, faithfully, honestly, and with integrity, fulfill the duties of the office for the people in the district according to the best of his judgment and ability, and will observe the code of conduct adopted by the Shire of Merredin under section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

5. Election of the Deputy President

Schedule 2.3, Division 2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that an election be conducted for the position of Deputy Shire President as the next item of business after the election of the Shire President at the first meeting of Council following an ordinary local government election.

The election must be conducted in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

The election will be conducted as follows:

1. Nomination forms have been previously provided to all Councillors to assist with the election process and, where possible, should be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. The Chief Executive Officer will, however, announce the closing time for the submission of nominations at the commencement of the meeting and will continue to receive nomination forms up until that time.
2. If a Councillor is nominated by another Councillor, then the Chief Executive Officer is not to accept the nomination unless the nominee has confirmed to the Chief Executive Officer, either verbally or in writing, that he or she is willing to be nominated for the office.
3. If more than one nomination is received, then Councillors will be required to vote on the matter by secret ballot, as if they were electors voting at an election. Positions on the ballot paper will be drawn at the meeting and ballot papers will be compiled and distributed at that time. Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
4. Once all votes have been cast, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast at an election.
5. As soon as is practicable after the result of the election is known, the person conducting the election will declare and give notice of the result.
6. If there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates who are the only candidates in, or remaining in, the count is to be discontinued and, not more than 7 days later, a special meeting of the Council is to be held.
7. Any nomination previously submitted may be withdrawn and new nominations made before the special meeting is held. If there is still more than one nomination for the position then Councillors will be required to vote again by secret ballot. New ballot papers will be prepared and distributed at that time and Councillors will be asked to indicate their vote by placing a tick against the name of their preferred candidate as shown on the ballot paper and to place their completed ballot paper in the ballot box provided.
8. Once all votes have been cast for a second time, the ballot box will be opened, all votes counted and the successful candidate determined as if those votes were votes cast in an election.
9. If there is still an equality of votes following the second count, then in accordance with Schedule 4.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 77A of the *Local Government (Election) Regulations 1997*, the person conducting the election will draw lots to determine which candidate is elected.

10. The result will be declared by the person conducting the election.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that she received 1 written nomination for the position of Deputy President, being for Councillor Renee Manning. She then called for further nominations.

As there were no further nominations, Councillor Renee Manning was elected unopposed.

As Councillor Manning was not present in person, she will be sworn into office by the Chief Executive Officer prior to the next Ordinary or Special Council Meeting.

6. Decision or Draw for the Position at the Council Table

Council's Standing Orders Local Law Clause 8.2 states:

"Members to occupy own seats

(1) At the first meeting held after each election day, the Council shall allot a position at the Council table to each member.

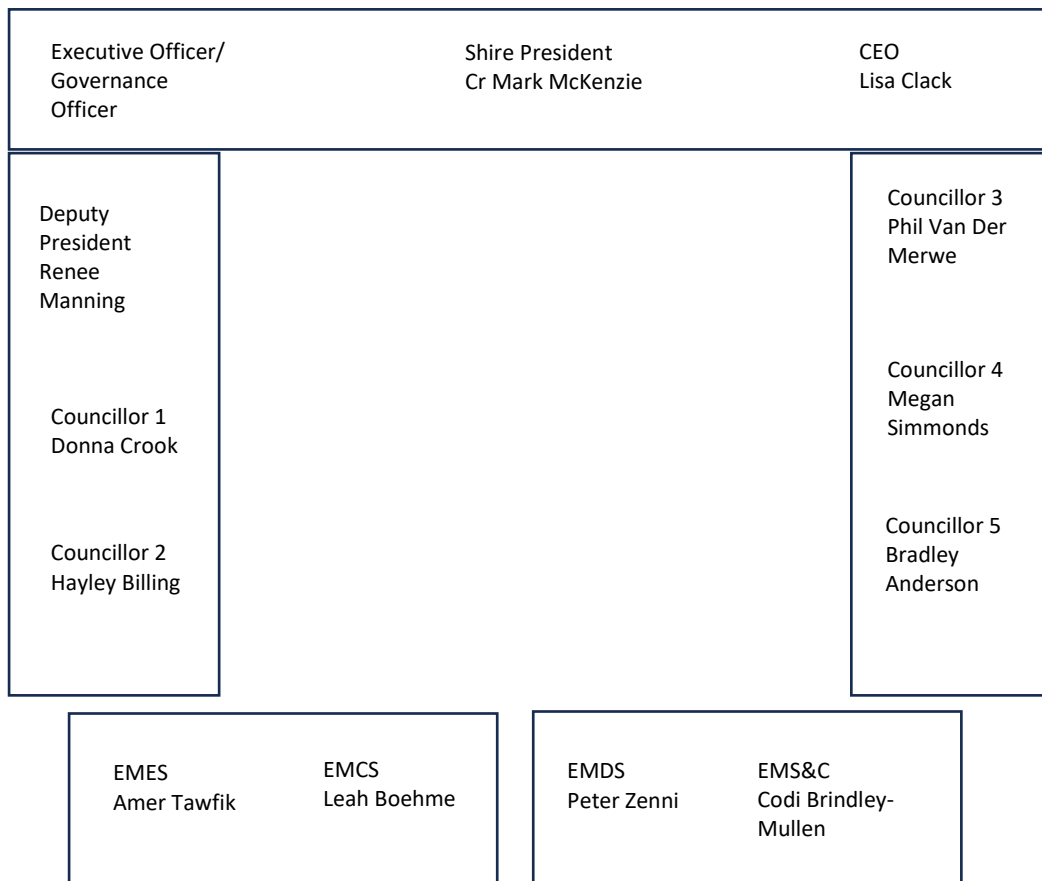
(2) Each member is to occupy his or her allotted position at each Council meeting."

Either a decision by consensus, or a draw will be conducted for the position at the Council table. Existing Councillors may wish to retain their existing seating position.

The Shire President undertook a discussion on seating allocations and determined no draw was required.

Councillor seat allocation will be as follows, in accordance with the below seating plan:

Name	Position
Cr Mark McKenzie	President
Cr Renee Manning	Deputy President
Cr Donna Crook	Councillor 1
Cr Hayley Billing	Councillor 2
Cr Phil Van Der Merwe	Councillor 3
Cr Megan Simmonds	Councillor 4
Cr Bradley Anderson	Councillor 5



7. Public Question Time

Nil

8. Election of Delegates and Deputy Delegates to Committees

The only committees that Council will be discussing at this meeting will include committees that require immediate appointment. The remainder of Council appointment to Committees will be brought back to a later meeting for discussion and consideration.

There are two types of Committees for consideration.

Committees of Council

In accordance with section 5.10 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a Councillor is entitled to be a member on any committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum. Additionally, the President is entitled to be a member on any committee of their choice, even though that may exceed the quorum. The CEO is entitled to be on (or appoint a representative to) any committee having employee representation.

In respect the Deputy Delegates, Council protocol appoints the Councillors who are not members to the committee as Deputy Delegates to enable their attendance and participation in committee meetings to ensure quorums.

External Committee Representation

Appointment of Council representatives to External Committees will be in accordance with each appropriate constitution, and will have regard to the Council endorsement of the selected representative. As such, representation will be voted on by resolution of Council.

Council Policy 1.19 – Election of Committees and Representatives is applicable.

8.1 Shire of Merredin Audit Committee

Current Members: Cr Flockart, Cr Patroni, Cr Crook, Cr McKenzie, Cr Manning

Deputies: All other Councillors

Membership: 5 Councillors

Quorum: 3 Councillors

Purpose: Regulation 16 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 states:

“An audit committee —

(a) is to provide guidance and assistance to the local government

—

(i) as to the carrying out of its functions in relation to audits carried out under Part 7 of the Act; and

(ii) as to the development of a process to be used to select and appoint a person to be an auditor; and

(b) may provide guidance and assistance to the local government as to —

(i) matters to be audited; and

(ii) the scope of audits; and

(iii) its functions under Part 6 of the Act; and

(iv) the carrying out of its functions relating to other audits and other matters related to financial management; and

(c) is to review a report given to it by the CEO under regulation 17(3) (the CEO’s report) and is to —

(i) report to the council the results of that review; and

(ii) give a copy of the CEO’s report to the council.”

Meeting Cycle: At least once annually to recommend adoption of the Annual Report and Compliance Audit Return, and at least once every three years to recommend adoption of the CEO’s Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Anderson

83262

That in accordance with sections 5.10, 5.11A and 7.1A of the Local Government Act 1995, Councillors McKenzie, Manning, Crook, Anderson and Simmonds be appointed as delegates to the Shire of Merredin Audit Committee, with all other Councillors appointed as Deputies.

CARRIED 7/0

8.2 Eric Hind Scholarship Committee

Current Members:	Cr Billing
Deputies:	All other Councillors
Membership:	1 Councillor and 2 community members
Quorum:	3 Members
Purpose:	To award the Eric Hind Music Scholarship as per Council Policy 3.10
Meeting Cycle:	Once annually (if required)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Anderson

83263

That, in accordance with sections 5.10 and 5.11A of the Local Government Act 1995, Councillor Billing be appointed as delegate to the Eric Hind Scholarship Committee, with all other Councillors appointed as Deputies.

CARRIED 7/0

8.3 Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Current Members:	Cr Van Der Merwe	
Deputies:	All other Councillors	
Membership Agencies:	Shire of Merredin	Merredin SES
	WA Police	Main Roads WA
	Department of Fire & Emergency Services	Water Corporation
	Department of Communities	Western Power
	Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development	Primary Health, Eastern Wheatbelt
	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions	Merredin College
	St John Ambulance	St Mary’s School, Merredin
	WA Country Health Services	Merredin Residential College
	Merredin Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Merredin Bushfire Brigades

Quorum: N/A

Purpose: Regulation 39 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* states: *“The functions of a local emergency management committee are, in relation to its district or the area for which it is established —*

- (a) to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district;*
- (b) to liaise with public authorities and other persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and*
- (c) to carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.”*

Meeting Cycle: Quarterly

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Crook

83264

That, in accordance with section 5.10s and 5.11A of the Local Government Act 1995, Councillor Van Der Merwe be appointed as Chair and Delegate to the Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee, with all other Councillors appointed as Deputies.

CARRIED 7/0

8.4 Western Australian Local Government Association Great Eastern Country Zone (GECZ)	
Attachments	Attachment 10.5A – Email regarding Election of Zone Delegates and State Councillors Attachment 10.5B – Elected Member Prospectus
Current Members:	Cr McKenzie, Cr Crook
Deputies:	Cr Patroni
Membership:	Shires of Bruce Rock, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Kellerberrin, Kondinin, Koorda, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Naremben, Nungarin, Tammin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn
Quorum:	8
Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To provide a united voice for Local Governments in the GECZ;2. To work collectively to enhance the sustainable social, environmental and economic development of the GECZ at strategic and project levels;3. To promote the profile of Local Government within the region encompassed within the GECZ;4. To speak on behalf of Local Governments in the GECZ;5. To elect, nominate and appoint Committees and representatives of the Zone to other organisations,6. To enter into agreements, formal or informal, with organisations having similar aims and objectives,7. To represent the views of Local Governments within the GECZ at the State Council of the Association;8. To do all and any such other things as in the opinion of the Zone may conveniently be carried on by the Zone or which promote or assist or are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects or any of them, or anything considered beneficial to the Zone; and9. To use the property and income of the Zone solely for the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Zone. No part of the property or income of the Zone may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Zone, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.
Meeting Cycle:	GECZ Committee and Executive Committee meetings, generally on the Thursday prior to State Council meetings or as otherwise agreed from time to time

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

83265

That Council ENDORSE, that Councillor McKenzie and Councillor Manning be appointed as delegates to the Western Australian Local Government Association Great Eastern Country Zone, with Councillor Crook appointed as Deputy.

CARRIED 7/0

8.5 Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC)

Current Members: Cr McKenzie, CEO

Deputies: Nil

Membership: 2 members from each of the Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia and Yilgarn

Quorum: 3

Purpose:

1. The Objects of WEROC shall be:
 - (a) To effectively represent the businesses, community and local governments of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region in its broadest sense and to promote the economic, cultural and environmental development of the region;
 - (b) To take an active interest in all matters of the moment affecting the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region with the view to improving, promoting and protecting the interests of Members and the Community;
 - (c) To establish a rapport with civic, business, ethnic and other sectors of the Community;
 - (d) Be recognised as representing and presenting the view of community to the relevant agencies and communities of the participating Members;
 - (e) To keep Members informed on important matters affecting the economic, cultural and environmental development of the region;
 - (f) To consider and respond to and advocate the amendment of Commonwealth or State legislation, regulations and policies and the local laws, regulations and policies of local government bodies and other corporations directly or indirectly affecting the interests of the Central Page 5 of 16 Eastern Wheatbelt Region and for such purposes to take all such steps or proceedings as may be expedient;
 - (g) To gain greater recognition of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region;
 - (h) To encourage Government and private enterprise to support the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region;
 - (i) To deliver projects considered beneficial to the whole of the Central Eastern Wheatbelt Region.

Meeting Cycle: WEROC Council & Executive alternate monthly meetings

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Officer's Comment

As per the WEROC Inc. Constitution representatives to the WEROC Board are to be nominated every two years by each Member Local Government and the Executive Officer must be notified of these nominations in writing. Representatives must be either a sitting Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer. There is no provision in the new constitution for deputies to be appointed.

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Anderson

83266

That Council ENDORSE that Councillor Manning and the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Lisa Clack be appointed as delegates to the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils.

CARRIED 7/0

8.6 Wheatbelt North (WBN) Regional Road Group (RRG)

Current Members:	Cr Patroni
Deputies:	Cr Manning
Membership:	Shires of Chittering, Cunderdin, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Dowerin, Gingin, Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Moora, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Northam, Nungarin, Tammin, Toodyay, Trayning, Victoria Plains, Westonia, Wyalkatchem, Wongan-Ballidu, Yilgarn and York
Quorum:	N/A

Purpose: The WBN RRG is provided with State funding from a number of categories contained within the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement with the RRG able to prioritise, allocate and approve its funding to specific local road projects.

Meeting Cycle: Twice annually

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Billing

83267

That Council ENDORSE that Councillor McKenzie be appointed as delegate to the Wheatbelt North Regional Road Group with Councillor Crook appointed as Deputy.

CARRIED 7/0

8.7 Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) Inc

Current Members: Cr McKenzie

Deputies: CEO

Membership: 1 person resident in and appointed by the Council in the each of the following Shires - Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Trayning, Westonia, Wyalkatchem and Yilgarn.

Quorum: 50% of membership plus 1

Purpose:

1. To capture economic benefit in the Wheatbelt by providing older people with the necessary services and infrastructure to remain living in their community of interest;
2. To provide housing for an ageing population in the CEACA Region;
3. To secure funding from various sources for the construction of housing;
4. To manage the housing across the Region, including its tenants and sale;
5. To maintain the housing constructed in the Region; and
6. To ensure the ongoing viability and increase the number of accommodation units across the Region as required.

Meeting Cycle: Quarterly with Executive Committee Meetings held within a similar timeframe, or as required.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

83268 That Council ENDORSE, Councillor Anderson be appointed as delegate to the Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) Inc with the CEO, Ms Lisa Clack appointed as Deputy.

CARRIED 7/0

9. Disclosure of Interest

Cr Manning declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 20.1.

10. Applications of Leave of Absence

Nil

11. Petitions and Presentations

Nil

12. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

12.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023

Attachment 12.1A

12.2 Special Council Meeting held on 17 October 2023

Attachment 12.2A

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Simmonds

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

That the following Minutes be confirmed as true and accurate records of proceedings;

83269

1. Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 September 2023; and
2. Special Council Meeting held 17 October 2023.

CARRIED 7/0

13. Announcements by the Person Presiding without Discussion

The President acknowledged the new Councillors, Councillor Anderson and Billing and congratulated them on being elected. He then congratulated Councillor Manning and Van Der Merwe for being re-elected.

14. Matters for which the Meeting may be Closed to the Public

Nil

15. Receipt of Minutes of Meetings

- 15.1 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2023.
Attachment 15.1A
- 15.2 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023.
Attachment 15.2A

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Crook

Seconded: Cr McKenzie

That Council;

83270

1. RECEIVE the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2023; and
2. RECEIVE the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023.

CARRIED 7/0

16. Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council Consideration

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Crook

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

83271

That Council NOTES the quarterly Reg 17 and Risk Action Plan Progress Report for July 2023 as presented in Attachment 6.1A of the Audit Committee Meeting.

CARRIED 7/0

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr Van Der Merwe

Seconded: Cr McKenzie

83272

That Council NOTES the quarterly Reg 17 and Risk Action Plan Progress Report for October 2023 as presented in Attachment 6.1A of the Audit Committee Meeting.

CARRIED 7/0

17. Officer's Reports – Development Services

Nil

18. Officer's Reports – Engineering Services

Nil

19. Officer's Reports – Corporate and Community Services

Nil

20. Officer's Reports – Administration

20.1 Wheatbelt Development Commission Board – Local Government Nominations

Cr Manning declared an Impartiality Interest in this Item.

<h2>Administration</h2> 	
Responsible Officer:	Lisa Clack, CEO
Author:	Meg Wyatt, EO
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	GR/17/10
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

For Council to endorse that the decision of nominating two Elected Member for consideration by the Minister for Regional Development as Board Members (Local Government) of the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) and allow the decision to be made out of session by consensus, once more information is provided.

Background

The WDC Board nominations for two Local Government representative vacancies on its Board, will open on 24 October 2023 and close at 4:00pm on 4 December 2023.

The WDC drives strategic partnerships that deliver jobs growth and maximises leverage from private and government investment. Details of the WDC's purpose and priorities can be found at www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au.

In accordance with the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*, nominees for the vacancies must be members of the Council of a Local Government in the region and are to be nominated by Local Governments in the region.

All Local Governments in the Wheatbelt region will be invited to nominate up to two Councillors, who are willing and able to be candidates, for appointment. The Commission will be seeking nominees from highly motivated and enthusiastic people, with the following experience:

- Understanding of key issues impacting the development of the Region;

- Demonstrated involvement in the economic and/or social development of the Region; and
- The ability to work cooperatively to achieve agreed goals across a wide range of issues and stakeholders.

The Minister for Regional Development, Hon Don Punch MLA will make the appointments to the Board after consultation with WA State Cabinet.

There are 7 members on the Board, 6 appointed by the Minister for Regional Development through this and other processes, and the WDC's Chief Executive Officer as an ex-officio, voting member.

The Board is responsible for strategic direction, discussion of policy issues and organisational performance, whilst the CEO is responsible for the operation of the WDC.

The Board meets bi-monthly in various regional locations. The dates for 2023 are currently being set. An agenda is provided at least a week prior to these scheduled meetings.

All meals and accommodation are provided. There is a standard sitting fee and travel costs are covered for eligible board members.

A range of material is sent out, often for general information between meetings to keep board members informed. Guest speakers attend board meetings and cover a range of topics relevant to the Wheatbelt.

The Local Government nominees must be endorsed by the Council of which they are currently a member, hence Council may wish to nominate up to 2 Councillors for a position on the WDC Board.

Comment

Representing the interests of Merredin specifically, and the Eastern Wheatbelt generally, is seen as important particularly in the current climate of cost-shifting to local government, reduced services and funding, and the apparent lack of interest from a State level in the region.

At its November 2021 meeting Council endorsed the nomination of Mrs Julie Flockart as an Elected Member to the WDC Board for consideration by the then Minister (CMRef 82834). Given the complex nature of Development Commission business nominees which are standing board members are usually preferred to ensure business continuity for the board of the Commission.

As the Administration do not currently have any further details including the application forms to provide to Council it will be difficult for Councillors to consider whether they would like to be nominated for a position on the Board. Further details will be sent out to the Administration when the nomination period commences on 24 October 2023, due to this the Administration is recommending that Council allow the decision of who to nominate to be discussed and decided at a future briefing session once Council has been provided with all the information. The resolution proposes the Shire President be authorised to endorse the nomination once this discussion is held.

Nominations close prior to the next confirmed Council meeting of 5th December, which is why this endorsement is sought to confirm a candidate out of session. Council can discuss

interested candidates at a briefing session with the Shire President then authorised to endorse the nomination.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

∅ Strategic Community Plan

Theme: 2. Economy and Growth
Service Area 2.1. Economic Development
Objective: 2.1.2. The Shire of Merredin is a place of choice for business investment and for new residents settling to enjoy a balance lifestyle and employment opportunities

Priorities and Strategies for Change: Nil

Sustainability Implications

∅ Strategic Resource Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

That Council

83273

1. **NOTES** the Shire of Merredin will submit a nomination for consideration by the Minister for Regional Development as a Board Member (Local Government) of the Wheatbelt Development Commission; and
2. **AUTHORISES** the Shire President to endorse the application of Councillor Crook.

CARRIED 7/0

21. Motions of which Previous Notice has been given

Nil

22. Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given

Nil

23. Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision

Nil

24. Matters Behind Closed Doors

Nil

25. Closure

There being no further business, the President thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 4:42pm.

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