



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday 24 October 2017



Common Acronyms Used in this Document

WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

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Shire of Merredin
Annual Electors Meeting
Tuesday 24 October 2017



1. Official Opening

The President welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6.04pm.

2. Public Question Time

Nil

3. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr KA Hooper	President
Cr MD Willis	Deputy President
Cr BJ Anderson	
Cr LN Boehme	
Cr RM Crees	
Cr MA Crisafio	
Cr JR Flockart	
Cr AR Butler	
Cr PR Patroni	

Staff:

G Powell	CEO
R McCall	DCEO
C Brown	EMCS
M Hudson	EMES
P Zenni	EMDS
V Green	EA to CEO

Members of the Gallery: J Anderson, M Dandridge, F Delanotte, J Flockart, H Giles, D Hayes-Thompson, M Hooper, D Morley

Apologies: Y Gray, J Anderson

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 7 February 2017
[Attachment 4.1A](#)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Crees **Seconded:** Cr Boehme

82067 That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 7 February 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

5. 2016/17 Annual Report

- 5.1 Receipt of the 2016/17 Annual Report
[Attachment 5.1A](#)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: J Flockart **Seconded:** H Giles

82068 That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 be received.

CARRIED

6. General Business

6.1 Merredin Tourist Park / 24hr RV Friendly Stopover Site

Representatives of the Merredin Tourist Park queried Council over the 24hr RV Friendly stopover site at Merredin Peak, reminding Council that the establishment of the site was to be on a trial basis.

Merredin Tourist Park is of the opinion the site is detrimental to its business and that Council should not be providing free camping within the townsite. It also believes Council is not enforcing the requirement for self-contained vehicles only to be permitted to use the site.

The President advised that the intent of the site was to bring tourists into town for the whole town's benefit and that Merredin didn't want to be seen as a town that is not welcoming.

The President also apologised for Council's omission in not reviewing the RV Friendly site and took it on board to do so.

Other members of the public gallery commented on the matter, advising they had attended the meeting for the purpose of congratulating Council on providing the 24hr RV Friendly stopover site, and indeed, requested it be improved with the provision of more facilities.

The President reiterated Council's commitment to review the matter and determine any major issues and the impacts on the business community.

6.2 Lion's Club Cardboard Presses

The meeting was advised that during the time Merredin Freightlines managed the cardboard recycling one of the two presses was sold and is now located in Doodlakine.

It was further stated that the presses were to remain within the Shire of Merredin and were not Merredin Freightlines' to sell.

The President advised Council were unaware of the matter but staff would follow up to determine what occurred.

6.3 Clean up of old trees, gardens and land

Council was requested to remove the old, dead trees from around town and generally tidy the gardens. Comment was also made on the state of some vacant land in town, particularly in the lead up to the fire season.

The CEO advised that the Restricted Burning Period expires at the end of October and the Ranger would be conducting patrols after that date to ensure compliance with the Firebreak Notice.

It was also mentioned that the main issue last year related to Crown Land which hadn't been attended to. Council has been assured that contractors will be appointed to ensure the UCL is appropriately cleared and maintained prior to this year's fire season.

6.4 CEACA Inc

An update on the CEACA Inc project was requested.

The CEO advised that a preferred tenderer had been selected and negotiations to finalise a contract were underway. However, obtaining confirmation on whether the Royalties for Regions funding of approximately \$22million would still be allocated to the project by the current State Government, under the signed Financial Assistance Agreements signed by the previous State Government, has not yet been received.

It is hoped that a meeting with the Minister can be arranged shortly to determine the status of the funding, and therefore the project.

6.5 Status of the Proposed Gym at MRCLC

Council was queried on the status of the proposed gym at the MRCLC.

The CEO advised that as there was a financial obligation on Council relating to the proposal and no certainty at this point that the contract with Belgravia Leisure would be extended beyond its October 2018 expiry date, Council resolved to defer the matter until that time.

Subsequent to Council's resolution, Belgravia Leisure was informed that should it wish to proceed with the proposal prior to the expiration of the current contract, it would be permitted to do so in its own right, but has so far declined to do so.

6.6 Footpaths

The state of footpaths on Coronation Street was raised with a request that they be improved as residents prefer to drive their gophers down the street, rather than use the footpath.

The President advised that in recent years Council has doubled the amount of funds allocated to footpaths (to approx. \$300-350,000/yr), with the priority going to areas of town which did not currently have any footpaths, and other areas replaced as the budget allowed.

6.7 Road Maintenance

The need for improved grading and road maintenance was raised.

The President replied, advising that gravel was getting harder to source and the quality was not as high as has been the case previously. In recent years a Polycom product had been trialled on a couple of roads which is proving effective. It is hoped that this can be rolled out to other roads within the Shire as funds allow.

The timing of grading and road maintenance is also highly dependent on the weather, which varies from year to year, making the scheduling of maintenance difficult to control.

6.8 Thanks and Recognition

Some members of the public gallery praised Council for its efforts during the year, suggesting a great service is being provided to the community. It was acknowledged that more legislation, compliance and cost shifting was being burdened on to local governments across the State, resulting in increased obligations on Councillors, yet Council appeared to manage this as best it could.

The inappropriate use of social media smear campaigns was raised, suggesting it detracted substantial time and effort away from focused activities. The President agreed, stating Council could accept constructive criticism where it was due but would always prefer to have a respectful and courteous dialogue in any matter.

7. Closure

There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.55pm.