



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
Tuesday 16 October 2018



Table of Contents



1.	Official Opening
2.	Public Question Time
3.	Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence
4.	Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4.1	Annual Electors Meeting held on 24 October 2017
5.	2017/18 Annual Report
5.1	Receipt of the 2017/18 Annual Report
6.	General Business
6.1	RV Signage
6.2	Informal Community Forum
6.3	Water Tower
6.4	Rose Beds
6.5	Recreation Ground near Caretaker's Residence
6.6	Merredin Cemetery Fence
6.7	Public Engagement
7.	Closure

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

Shire of Merredin
Annual Electors Meeting
Tuesday 16 October 2018



1. Official Opening

The President welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6.01pm.

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 JR Flockart	
Cr PR Patroni	

Staff:

G Powell	CEO
K Bartley	DCEO
C Brown	EMCS
M Hudson	EMES
P Zenni	EMDS
J Freind	Cummins Theatre Manager
V Green	EA to CEO
A Hajat	Community Liaison Officer
J Simmonds	Pool Manager
M Wallace	Media & Communications Officer

Members of the Gallery:

Mr Megs Anderson, Mr Stephen & Mrs Julie Crook, Mr John Flockart, Mrs Yvonne Gray, Mrs Michelle Hooper, Mrs Su Riley, Mr Brian Thomson

Apologies:

Cr AR Butler, Cr MA Crisafio

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 Annual Electors Meeting held on 24 October 2017
[Attachment 4.1A](#)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Flockart **Seconded:** Cr Willis

- 82272** That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 24 October 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 7/0

5. 2017/18 Annual Report

- 5.1 Receipt of the 2017/18 Annual Report
[Attachment 5.1A](#)

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Patroni **Seconded:** Cr Anderson

- 82273** That the Annual Report, as presented in Attachment 5.1A, for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 be received.

CARRIED 7/0

6. General Business

6.1 RV Signage

It was suggested a large sign be placed near the entrance of Lisa's Café to indicate where RV parking was permitted at the western end of the CBD, as it can otherwise be confusing.

The President advised that the matter would be investigated and rectified if possible.

6.2 Informal Community Forum

Council conducted an Informal Community Forum in June 2018 with good attendance and matters raised. The President suggested that such forums may be more relevant and provide a greater opportunity for community input than the Annual Electors Meeting which, essentially, reports on activities held up to a year ago.

Nonetheless, the President thanked those in attendance for making the effort to attend the meeting and raise their concerns.

6.3 Water Tower

It was queried whether any restoration works on the water tower were anticipated, as well as the agency responsible for undertaking such works.

The CEO advised that the water tower, although located on a road reserve, is under the management and responsibility of the Shire. He further advised that the condition of the tower has been reviewed and grant opportunities researched to undertake restorative works. However, the logistics of any repair needing to take place with the tank in situ makes the methodology of undertaking the work more complicated.

The matter will continue to be investigated and once a suitable solution and funding opportunity presents itself the works will be undertaken.

6.4 Rose Beds

The removal of the rose beds over 10 years ago from French Avenue to Woolgar Avenue was raised, with the comment that it was the intention at the time that the area be replanted with natives, which hasn't occurred.

As it was advised at the time that interested community member(s) would maintain the rose beds, the fact that they were removed and beautification works not undertaken has been particularly upsetting.

The President advised it was thought better at the time to have smaller areas of garden (and particularly rose bushes which can be high maintenance) being kept to a high standard, rather than many areas of garden being kept at a lower standard around the town. He further advised that an allocation is made in each budget for Parks and Gardens maintenance, however this covered all works across all areas of town.

The appearance of the rose bushes around the War Memorial was raised, with the comment that they looked fantastic which was great to see.

The CEO advised that the roses were a special edition purchased with grant funding around 2014 for the anniversary of WW1. Funds were also received at the time to refurbish the Cenotaph. He further commented that it was pleasing to note that the second Lone Pine was still in situ, after the first one disappeared.

6.5 Recreation Ground near Caretaker's Residence

It was queried whether there were any plans for the area from the caretaker's residence to Golf Road at the Recreation Ground.

The CEO advised that the house would be removed as it was now surplus to requirements. He added there is a proposal to lease the area containing the weather station to the Department of Meteorology as it is of national importance and the area would then be landscaped.

It was mentioned that the shed in the area was once used to house the maintenance plant utilised at the Recreation Ground but that this no longer occurred.

Some time ago it was suggested that the area could be subdivided for residential or aged housing, however this had not been progressed due to the inhibiting costs in undertaking such a process.

6.6 Merredin Cemetery Fence

The matter of replacing the perimeter fence to the Cemetery was raised with the comment that it was discussed some time ago but works were yet to occur. Since that time the fence has deteriorated further with broken limbs and trees falling on the fence, adding to the damage.

The CEO advised that the situation would be reviewed again and although there were no funds allocated in the 2018/19 Budget, consideration could be given to an allocation in the 2019/20 Budget to undertake the works.

It was suggested that surplus fencing could be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (previously Agriculture) and this would be investigated.

6.7 Public Engagement

Council and staff were congratulated on their efforts during the previous 12 months to increase engagement opportunities with the community.

The President agreed that there has been a concerted effort to increase interaction with the community, adding it was pleasing to see it was paying dividends. He further advised there is an identified need to seek feedback from the whole of the community and confirmed Council's intent to continue engaging proactively and respectfully with the community.

It was requested that a vote of thanks be made to staff for their efforts, for example Graham Motzel who recently retired after 40 years of service to the organisation. The Shire's new staff were welcomed, and those who have left farewelled.

It was also mentioned that the volunteers in the community deserve great recognition for their dedication to the community, especially our emergency services. The President agreed that they played a critical part within the community and reiterated the vote of thanks.

7. Closure

There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.23pm.