SHIRE OF MERREDIN



"Heart of the Wheatbelt"

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

15 May 2012

INDEX

1.0	OFFICIAL OPENING4
2.0	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME4
3.0	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE 4
4.0	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
5.0	PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
6.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES5
	6.1 Ordinary Council Meeting
7.0	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION
8.0	MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO
	THE PUBLIC
	17.1 - Tender 08 – 11/12 Synthetic Sports Surface 5
9.0	RECEIVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL
	 9.1 Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting Held on 13 March 20125 9.2 Minutes From the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held Thursday 26 April 2012
10.0	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
	10.1 Local Law No. 3 - Relaxation - Markets - Merredin Community Resource Centre
11.0	D ENGINEERING SERVICES
	11.1 2012/2013 Five Year Road Program
12.0	CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
	12.1 List Of Accounts Paid

SHIRE OF MERREDIN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY 15 MAY 2012

13.0	ADMINISTRATION	27
13	3.1 Wheatbelt Development Commission Board Nominations 2012	27
13	3.2 Customer Service Charter	29
13	3.3 Code Of Conduct For Councillors And Staff	30
13	3.4 Wheatbelt Infrastructure Priorities And Planning Initiatives	32
	3.5 Metropolitan Local Government Review - Submission	
	3.6 State Aviation Strategy – Issues Paper	
13	3.7 Tier 3 Rail Closure – Road Needs Report	38
14.0	MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	40
15.0	QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS	
	BEEN GIVEN	40
16.0	URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING	
	OR BY DECISION	40
17.0	MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS	40
17	7.1 Tender 08 – 11/12 Synthetic Sports Surface	40
18.0	CLOSURE	40

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Merredin held in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 15 May 2012 commencing at 1.00pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: D Crook Shire President

M Morris Deputy Shire President

BJ Anderson RM Crees

DN Hayes-Thompson

KA Hooper D Morris

Apologies: W Wallace

T McFarlane

Staff: G Powell Chief Executive Officer

E Arnold Executive Manager Corporate and Community

Services

J Garrett Executive Manager Engineering Services
L Wyatt Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The President declared the meeting open at 1.00. Lisa Fischer was present.

2.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

3.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Anderson was granted a leave of absence for the 19 June 2012 ordinary Council meeting.

4.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr D Morris declared a Financial Interest in item 10.1 and an Impartiality Interest items 12.3 and 17.1. Cr Hooper declared an Impartiality Interest in item 17.1. Cr M Morris declared a Financial Interest in items 10.1 and 12.3.

5.0 PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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6.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 April 2012.

30860 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr D Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 April 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 7/0

7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION Nil

8.0 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

17.1 - Tender 08 – 11/12 Synthetic Sports Surface

9.0 RECEIVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL

9.1 <u>Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting Held on 13 March 2012</u>
Attachment 9.1A

Recommendation:

g) DOAC Recommendations

1. It was recommended at the recent DOAC meeting that the prohibited burning period be extended from 1st February to 14st February to bring our Shire in line with everyone else and give uniformity across the region.

9.2 <u>Minutes From the Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held Thursday</u> 26 April 2012

Attachment 9.2A

9.3 <u>Minutes From the WEROC Council Meeting held 2 May 2012</u> **Attachment 9.3A**

30861 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting held on 13 March 2012, minutes from the Great Eastern Country Zone meeting held Thursday 26 April and the WEROC Council meeting held 2 May 2012 be received.

CARRIED 7/0

30862 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr D Morris

Committee Recommendation

That Council extends the prohibited burning period by 14 days to 14 February and bring the Shire of Merredin in line with other Shires in the regions.

CARRIED 6/1

10.0 **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Cr D Morris left the meeting at 1.07pm.

Cr M Morris sought Council consideration to allow him to remain in the meeting. He then left the meeting at 1.07pm.

30863 Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr Anderson

That Cr M Morris remain in the meeting for discussion purposes only.

CARRIED 4/1

Cr M Morris returned to the meeting at 1.10pm

10.1 LOCAL LAW No. 3 - RELAXATION - MARKETS - MERREDIN COMMUNITY

RESOURCE CENTRE

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: Rebecca Bowler

Legislation: Local Law 3. Activities in Thoroughfares and

Public Places and Trading- Part 6 Trading in

Thoroughfares and Public Places

File Reference: A225
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Background

The Merredin Community Resource Centre wishes to formally request the waivure of individual Stallholders or Street Traders Permit fees for future market day events conducted by the Merredin Community Resource Centre.

Local Law No 3. Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Part 6 Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places requires that a stall holder (person in charge of a stall)/ street trader's (person who carries on trading) permit be issued in the event that someone wishes to conduct a stall or trade in a public place.

A stall means-

'A moveable or temporarily fixed structure, stand or table in, on of from which goods or services are sold, hired or offered for sale or hire'

A public place includes-

- 'a) any thoroughfare or place which the public are allowed to use whether or not the thoroughfare or place is on private property; and
- b) local government property but dose not include premises on private property from which trading is lawfully conducted under written law'

Exemptions from requirement to pay fee or to obtain a permit-

(1) In this clause –

"charitable organisation" means an institution, association, club, society or body whether incorporated or not, the objects of which are of a charitable, benevolent, religious, cultural, educational, recreational, sporting or other like nature and from which any member does not receive any pecuniary profit except where the member is an employee or the profit is an honorarium; and "commercial participant" means any person who is involved in operating a stall or in conducting any trading activity for personal gain or profit.

- (2) The local government may waive any fee required to be paid by an applicant for a stallholder's permit or a trader's permit on making an application for or on the issue of a permit, or may return any such fee which has been paid, if the stall is conducted or the trading is carried on –
- (a) on a portion of a public place adjoining the normal place of business of the applicant; or
- (b) by a charitable organisation that does not sublet space to, or involve commercial participants in the conduct of a stall or trading, and any assistants that may be specified in the permit are members of that charitable organisation.
- (3) The local government may exempt a person or a class of persons, whether or not in relation to a specified public place, from the requirements of this Division.'

It could be determined that the Merredin Community Resource Centre could be considered a 'charitable organisation' based on the above definition, however section 2 of this particular clause clearly indicates that a charitable organisation is NOT exempt from the fees associated with a permit if 'a charitable organisation...does... sublet space to, or involve commercial participants in the conduct of a stall or trading...'. The MCRC may more appropriately be considered a "not-for-profit" organisation rather than "charitable".

Stall holders themselves, unless nominated as a charitable organisation, are deemed a 'commercial participant' and are therefore, usually, required to submit the application for a stallholders permit along with the nominated fees.

The Local Law dictates that individual stallholders/street traders would need to apply to the Shire and submit the current application fee of \$60 for a stall other than a food business and \$80 for a stall which sells any food (fee structure to change at the end of financial year 2012/2013). The purpose of the application is so that the relevant officers can ensure that all of the correct insurances have been obtained by the stall holder and to ensure that liability and responsibility had been communicated between both parties.

The permit issued outlines the rights and responsibilities of the stallholder. The application and permit issuing process allows the relevant officers within the Shire to contact stall holders and, if deemed necessary, make arrangements to inspect the location of where food items are produced or the nature of their stalls etc.

The Merredin CRC is looking to take out the stallholders permit on behalf of the stall holders on an annual basis, excusing individual stall holders from the application process and the fees associated with the application.

Staff have been in communication with Merredin CRC in relation to this matter and would like to make the following comments.

Comment

Confirmation of discussions and actions taken in relation to Merredin Community Resource Centre (CRC) and the associated Merredin Community Markets.

- Merredin CRC was issued with a Stallholders Permit on behalf of the stallholders participating in the community markets held in the car park opposite the 108 Barrack Street, Merredin for 31st March 2012
- Merredin CRC was issued with a Stallholders Permit (in retrospect) on behalf of the stallholders participating in the community markets held in the car park opposite the 108 Barrack Street, Merredin for 29th April 2012
- Staff propose that a stall holder's permit be issued to the Merredin CRC in the new 2012/2013 financial year for the prescribed fee of \$15 per day (per event).

Staff haverecently spoken with Esther Robartson from the Seventh Day Adventist church regarding the 'Car boot sale', conducted on the third Sunday of every month. Ms Robartson will most likely submit a request to make a similar arrangement with the Shire at the June council meeting.

Statutory/Policy Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

The amount of \$15 per event payable by the Merredin CRC will not cover the staff administration costs associated with the processing and likely follow up with stall holders (particularly if a stall holder nominated to sell food products), however staff are prepared to make a positive recommendation on this matter unless the following conditions/recommendations have been breached, upon which time fees may be subject to change.

Moved: Cr Hayes-Thompson Seconded: Cr Crees

Officer's Recommendation

That a stall holder's permit be issued to the Merredin Community Resource Centre in the 2012/2013 financial year for the prescribed fee of \$15 per day (per event) with one permit issued valid for the entire financial year indicating all dates that the markets wish to operate in a particular location, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Merredin CRC is to provide the Shire of Merredin with the layout and contact details (contact number and postal address) of every stallholder involved at each market event as well as a brief description of the goods for sale/trade associated with each stall holder.
- 2. Merredin CRC is to provide the Shire of Merredin with a certificate of public liability insurance which indicates, in writing, the cover of every stallholder and the surrounding area that that is intended for use for the duration of the market event.
- 3. All stallholders intending to sell/trade food products at the markets are to fill out a Food Act 2008 Notification/Registration form and submit to the Shire at least 5 business days in advance of the market event. This is to allow for the assessment of the application by the Shire of Merredin's Environmental Health Officer. The submission of an application may result in requirement for inspection of the food products/location of manufacture, prior to the day of the markets to ensure compliance with the Food Act 2008 and all subsidiary legislation.
- 4. If the food business is already registered then a copy of the food business registration must be provided to the Shire's Environmental Health Officer for assessment.
- 5. The Shire of Merredin recognises that for administration and coordination purposes it is an appropriate proposal by the Merredin CRC to maintain responsibility for the organisation and running of the Merredin Community Markets, subject to conditions placed on the arrangement by the Shire of Merredin, which are subject to change at any time in accordance with the legislative requirements and conditions.
- 6. Any proposed changes to the location or general format of the Merredin Community Markets must be advised to the Shire of Merredin, in writing, for approval and amendment to the stallholders permit.

The CEO left the meeting at 1.13pm
The CEO and Rebecca Bowler entered the meeting at 1.14pm

Cr M Morris left the meeting at 1.38pm

30864 Moved: Hooper Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Amendment

That a stall holder's permit be issued to the Merredin Community Resource Centre in the 2012/2013 financial year for the prescribed fee of \$15 per day (per event) with one permit issued valid for the entire financial year indicating all dates that the markets wish to operate in a particular location, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Merredin CRC is to provide the Shire of Merredin with the layout and contact details (contact number and postal address) of every stallholder involved at each market event as well as a brief description of the goods for sale/trade associated with each stall holder.
- 2. Merredin CRC is to provide the Shire of Merredin with a certificate of public liability insurance which indicates, in writing, the cover of every stallholder and the surrounding area that that is intended for use for the duration of the market event.
- 3. All stallholders intending to sell/trade food products at the markets are to fill out a Food Act 2008 Notification/Registration form and submit to the Shire at least 5 business days in advance of the market event. This is to allow for the assessment of the application by the Shire of Merredin's Environmental Health Officer. The submission of an application may result in requirement for inspection of the food products/location of manufacture, with the relevant fees to apply prior to the day of the markets, to ensure compliance with the Food Act 2008 and all subsidiary legislation.
- 4. If the food business is already registered then a copy of the food business registration must be provided to the Shire's Environmental Health Officer for assessment.
- 5. The Shire of Merredin recognises that for administration and coordination purposes it is an appropriate proposal by the Merredin CRC to maintain responsibility for the organisation and running of the Merredin Community Markets, subject to conditions placed on the arrangement by the Shire of Merredin, which are subject to change at any time in accordance with the legislative requirements and conditions.
- Any proposed changes to the location or general format of the Merredin Community Markets must be advised to the Shire of Merredin, in writing, for approval and amendment to the stallholders permit.

CARRIED 5/0

THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE MOTHION WAS PUT AND CARRIED 4/1

Cr M Morris and Cr D Morris returned to the meeting at 1.41pm

10.2 HOME OCCUPATION APPLICATION- MRS ANNE MOTTERSHEAD, LOT 1 GOLDFIELDS ROAD, MERREDIN

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: Rebecca Bowler

Legislation: Planning and Development Act 1995, Town

Planning Scheme No. 6, Food Act 2008, 8.12 Shire of Merredin Home Occupation Policy

File Reference: A3284
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Planning Application and Covering letter.

Background

A planning application (Attachment 10.2A) and cover letter (Attachment 10.2B) has been received from Mrs Anne Mottershead of Lot 1 14994 Goldfields Road, Merredin to establish a home occupation business- Low Risk Food Premises (cakes and cupcakes with icing).

The premise is zoned 'light industry' and the home occupation is nominated as "not permitted unless the local government has exercised it's discretion by granting planning approval".

Comment

An inspection of the proposed location of the low risk food premise has been conducted by Environmental Health Officer, Rebecca Bowler. The inspection revealed that Mrs Mottershead has addressed/satisfied all of the requirements and considerations in relation to the Food Act 2008 (and all subsidiary legislation) as well as the Shire of Merredin Home Occupation Policy and Town Planning Scheme No.6. Mrs Mottershead has provided detailed plans and documentation relating to the proposed operation of the business. A food business notification form with supporting information has also been submitted.

It has been highlighted to Mrs Mottershead that any deviations from the current proposal in relation to any component, but in particular, the type of food to be produced, will require the notification and resubmission of an application for further consideration/potential termination of the home occupation permit.

Formal correspondence to Mrs Mottershead outlining all of the conditions of the permit will be issued if the application to Council is approved.

Statutory/Policy Implications

The provisions of the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 6 are applicable. A policy relating to home occupations has been adopted by Council.

None of the limitations of the Home Occupation policy have been breeched in relation to this particular home occupation application. The combined total area of the area in which the home occupation activity will take place is no greater then $20m^2$.

Financial Implications

No fees have been charged for this consideration. Annual fees of \$125 are applicable for home occupation. Annual food surveillance fees of \$100 are applicable as the proposed application is for a low risk based food business.

Lisa Fischer left the meeting at 1.44pm

30865 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

- That pursuant to clause 4.2.5 of the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 6 Council approves the application from Anne Mottershead to establish a low risk food premises (cakes and cupcakes only) for the purposes of providing the community with cakes made special to order, for the sale at local Markets, fetes and the community show.
- 2. That the application for a home occupation permit be advertised for the statutory period.
- 3. That adjoining owner/occupiers are notified and invited to comment.

 CARRIED 7/0

Rebecca Bowler left the meeting at 1.52pm

10.3 LOT 201 (2) BATES STREET – CHANGE OF USE FROM CAFÉ TO SHORT TERM

ACCOMMODATION – M MURFIT

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Planning Scheme

File Reference: P 3380

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachment: Plan

Background

At its February 2012 meeting Council considered a change of use for this lot and resolved as follows:

30828 Moved: Cr M Crees Seconded: Cr T McFarlane

Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That the Zoning table use classes for "Town Centre" Use Class "Holiday Accommodation" be applied to an application for accommodation premises on Lot 201 Bates Street, Merredin.
- 2. That an amendment to the Zoning Table to allow "Bed and Breakfast" use class within the "Town Centre" zoning not be supported by the Shire of Merredin as there are no single dwellings situated or permitted within the "Town Centre" zoning.
- 3. That Mrs Murfit be advised of Council's decision regarding the proposed zoning table amendment relating to Bed & Breakfast accommodation within the Town Centre zone.

CARRIED

7/2

Subsequently, an application for planning approval was submitted seeking approval to change the use of the lot to "short term accommodation". A plan of the proposal is at **Attachment 10.3A**.

The proposal is aimed at providing accommodation for one or two people for a minimum of 3 nights to a maximum of 3 months. The property will be fully furnished.

Comment

A number of issues arise from this application, the first of which is part 1 of the February resolution of Council. Further discussion with Council's consultant planner is that the application of the use classification of the lot as "Holiday Accommodation" may not be appropriate. This is because the term usually applies to more than one unit of accommodation and in this instance this is not the case. Further, as the land is zoned "Town Centre" the objectives of this zone state, inter alia:

4.2.2.12 To provide for residential uses only where the residential uses are combined with a commercial use, e.g. hotel, or where the residential uses occupy a floor level where it is impracticable or inappropriate to establish a shop or office.

However, as a decision has been made and the interpretation may not be precise, the applicant has proceeded in good faith. Further, Council can exercise its discretion as provided for in LPS to permit the use of the site as "Holiday Accommodation" as defined in LPS 6. It is recommended that it does so.

A further issue is that the site cannot provide for on site parking. Although the requirement for "holiday accommodation" is not specifically defined in Table 2 of LPS 6, hotels and motels are required to provide 1 bay per unit plus an allocation for public areas. Plans submitted in support of the allocation show that it will provide for two bedrooms and therefore 2 parking bays should be provided.

The applicant has advised that parking is available in adjoining properties but no certainty is provided that this will be available in the long term. It is recommended that this requirement be conditioned.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Planning Scheme 6

Financial Implications

Nil. Fees are outstanding.

30866 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

That the application from Michelle Murfit to change the use of Lot 201 Bates Street, Merredin to "Holiday Accommodation" for a period of 12 months in accordance with the attached plan subject to:

- 1. Payment of the appropriate fees and charges, and
- 2. The applicant providing certainty that car parking can be provided in the long term for the development within the 12 month period.

CARRIED 6/1

10.4 RESERVES 42082 CUMMINGS STREET AND 44697 TELFER AVENUE –

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Planning Scheme 6 **File Reference:** RES42082; RES 44697

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachment: Outline Development Plans

Background

In August 2011 Council considered Outline Development Plans (ODP) (Minute No. 30680) for the above reserves. The ODP's are attached at **Attachment 10.4A**. Subsequently, the Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) was requested to consider providing the land to Council at no cost.

A response to the request was received in mid April 2012.

Comment

Although not a formal offer and subject to Ministerial approval and Native Title Act (NTA) provisions, RDL has advised that the reserves have been priced at \$1000 each valid for nine months and subject to Landgate fees of \$267 per transaction.

The valuation is based on the understanding that Council undertakes a residential subdivision and on sells the lots. This requirement will be covenanted.

At this stage the previous tenure and subsequent reservation of 44697 appear to enable an easier passage through the NTA rather than 42082. The latter will need to be subjected to the full future act regime of the NTA.

RDL has commented that 42082 is a Reserve for Parks and Recreation and could be considered a valuable community asset in its present state. Given the large area of both reserves and the Shire's previous advice in relation to development costs, future subdivision of both parcels of land may not only place a strain on the Shire's budget but also sterilise the community's use of 42082 in the short term. As such Council may wish to give some further consideration to proceeding with the purchase of 44697 within a relatively short timeframe while it gauges its requirement for 42082.

As there is any number of undeveloped lots in the Merredin town site in the older sections of the town as well as the Carrington Way development, the comments from RDL have merit. Additionally, recent demand for land would seem to have softened with lots still remaining for sale in Carrington Way and the recent lack of lots sold at the Whitfield Way auction.

The subdivision of 44697 if developed in accordance with the ODP will result in 71 lots. This would satisfy demand for a number of years given current demand.

Although Council resolved to advertise the ODP's for both reserves in August last year, it would appear that it has not formally adopted them subsequent to advertising. Records would indicate that no submissions were made as a consequence of the advertising.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995 Local Planning Scheme 6 Native Title Act 1993 Land Administration Act 1997

Financial Implications

Although the initial acquisition costs are minimal, there are significant costs to be incurred with the development of these reserves. Estimates (2011) are in the order of \$3 million for 42082 and \$2.5 million for 44697. Council has not made any provision for this expenditure. There is a substantial risk as profit margins are minimal if a return of \$50,000 per lot is used as an average sale price without factoring in holding costs which make the projects marginal.

However, in the context of obtaining a land bank, Reserve 44697 should be acquired but not developed with action on Reserve 42082 being delayed because of cost constraints and NTA implications.

30867 Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr D Morris
Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That Council adopts the Outline Development Plans for Reserves 42082 and 44697 considered at its August 2011 meeting and attached.
- 2. That the Department of Regional Development and Lands be advised that Council wishes to proceed with the acquisition of Reserve 44697 and that it reserves its right to acquire Reserve 42082 on the same basis in the future.
- 3. That provision be made in the 2012/13 Budget for the transaction.

 CARRIED 7/0

10.5 APPLICATION FOR SUBDIVISION – LOT 29 GOLDFIELDS ROAD, NANGEENAN

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: LPS 6 & Town Planning and Development Act

File Reference: P9393/94 (WAPC Appn No 145701)

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: WAPC Correspondence

Background

A request for advice (**Attachment 10.5A**) has been received from the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) regarding an application to subdivide Lot 29 Goldfields Road (one lot into two) for rural purposes.

Comment

The reason for the proposal is to create two lots from one because the lot is severed by the railway line. The land is no longer used because of the difficulties associated with the railway line. The subdivision will result in one lot of 17.89ha to the north of the railway line and a lot of 63.66ha south of the railway line. Power and water is available to the smaller lot.

The proposal has been discussed with officers of the WAPC who are inclined to recommend approval of the proposal because of the railway severance.

Statutory/Policy Implications

State Planning Policy 3.4 – subdivision of rural land. LPS 6

Financial Implications

Nil

30868 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr Crees

Officer's Recommendation

That the Western Australian Planning Commission be advised that the application to subdivide Lot 29 Goldfields Road Nangeenan into two lots of 17.89ha and 63.66ha is supported because of the severance of the land by the standard gauge rail line.

10.6 HINES HILL GRAIN TEMINAL – APPROVAL FOR CONCRETE APRON – CBH/PTA

Reporting Department: Development Services

Reporting Officer: CEO **LPS** 6

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachment: Site Plan

Background

CBH seeks planning approval for weighbridge approach and exit pavement levels at the Hines Hill grain receival point. The application and plans are at **Attachment 10.6.**

Planning approval is required in order to comply with Commonwealth legislation. The weighbridge is existing.

Comment

The application is procedural and is located on the rail reserve. No significant issues arise and approval is recommended.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil. Fees are outstanding but subject to payment of an invoice.

30869 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Officer's Recommendation

That Planning Approval be granted to CBH/PTA to construct weighbridge aprons associated with the existing weighbridge at the Hines Hill grain receival terminal.

11.0 ENGINEERING SERVICES

11.1 **2012/2013 FIVE YEAR ROAD PROGRAM**

Reporting Department: Engineering and Services

Reporting Officer: James Garrett

Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: 5 Year Road Program

Background

To assist Council in adopting the 2012/2013 road works program for budget purposes, a draft 5 year road program (**Attachment 11.1A**) is developed annually by the Executive Manager of Engineering Services.

Included in the five year road program are the proposed:

- Road Works
- Drainage works
- Footpath works
- Road Maintenance budget allocations

Funding for the 2012/2013 road program comes from grant money received from the Regional Road Group (RRG) funding pool, Roads to Recovery (R2R2) and Councils own resources (OR). Over the next 2 financial years we will also be receiving funds for road upgrades covered by the Grain Freight Network.

Road that are funded from Regional Road Group grants are on a ⅔ RRG and ⅓ Council's own resources.

Road to Recovery road grants are fully funded by R2R2 but may be "topped up" with Councils own resources.

Comment

Regional Road Group road grant funds for the 2012/2013 financial year:

Chandler Road \$234,507 Robartson Road \$108,746

was indorsed by the Regional Road Group at its February 2012 meeting.

The Merredin/Narembeen Road will receive \$2,000,000 of Grain Freight Network funds. This may increase depending on Shire resources to carry out the works.

The Totadgin Hall Road intersection will receive black spot funding of \$214,937.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995

Financial Implications

2012/13 budget resources (OR) \$1,546,626

30870 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hooper

Officer's Recommendation

That Council endorse the 2012/2013 draft 5 year road program (Attachment 11.1A) and it be included in the draft 2012-2013 budget.

12.0 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

12.1 LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID

Reporting Department: Finance & Administration

Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold, Executive Manager of Corporate

and Community Services

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995 & Financial

Management Regulations

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: List of Accounts Paid

Background

The attached List of Account Paid (Attachment 12.1A) during the month under Delegated Authority is provided for Council's information.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

Financial Implications

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions. It should be noted that outstanding creditors total \$154,435.54.

30871 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr D Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the schedule of accounts as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, bank charges, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$680,780.08 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account.

12.2 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Reporting Department: Finance and Administration

Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Monthly Finance Report

Background

The Monthly Finance Report is attached for Council's information. (Attachment 12.2A)

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995 and Financial Management Regulations.

Financial Implications

As outlined in Attachment 12.2A.

30872 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Officer's Recommendation

That Council receive the Monthly Finance Report for April 2012.

Cr M Morris declared a Financial Interest in this item and requested Councils

consideration to remain in the meeting. He left the meeting at 2.08pm.

30873 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

That Councillor D Morris be allowed to remain in the meeting for discussion and voting purposes.

CARRIED 6/0

Cr M Morris returned to the meeting at 2.10pm.

12.3 **COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR 2012/2013 BUDGET**

CONSIDERATION

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold – Executive Manager of

Corporate and Community Services

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
File Reference: Council Policy Manual 3.21

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Application Received

Background

Council often receives requests for funding from local groups for a variety of projects. Council seeks to support these groups and in doing so acknowledges the contribution made by local volunteers and not for profit groups to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our community.

As a consequence, Council adopted policy 3.21 Community Funding at its March 2010 meeting (CMRef 30277) which coordinates Council's response to community requests for financial support. It also ensures that the Shire funding resources are allocated in a way that are transparent, legal and equitable and that funded projects further the aims and objectives of the Shire and represent responsible use of public monies.

The aims of the Shire of Merredin's Community Funding Program are:

- 1. to encourage the development of services, facilities and events that meet identified community needs;
- to promote active participation of local residents in community initiatives and the development of skills, knowledge and opportunities;
- 3. to provide assistance to the community to develop initiatives and services that support the Shire of Merredin's own objectives; and
- 4. to enhance the image of the Shire of Merredin within the community.

The following groups are eligible for funding support:

1. incorporated not-for-profit organisations based within the Shire of Merredin;

- 2. incorporated not-for-profit organisations undertaking projects for the benefit of the Shire of Merredin's residents and whose primary aim is the improvement of the quality of life of the community; and
- 3. non-incorporated community groups under the auspices of an incorporated organisation.

Comment

The Shire advertised in the Merredin Mercury in March for expressions of interest from not-for-profit, incorporated community groups and organisations with project and program funding needs which will be considered by Council when developing the 2012/2013 Annual Budget. The following applications were received:

Organisation	Project	Amount \$
Wheatbelt Agcare	Provide free family	1,100.00
	counselling.	
Merredin Fine Art Society	An art exhibition.	1,480.00
Small Green Steps	Energy and water efficiency one day event in conjunction with the Merredin Community Resource Centre.	1,300.00

Copies of the completed applications are attached for Council's consideration.

Statutory/Policy Implications

This contribution meets the requirements of Council Policy 3.21 – Community Funding.

Financial Implications

A provision for \$3,880.00 can be made in the 2012/2013 budget from E041170 – Public Relations and Donations.

30874 Moved: Cr Anderson Seconded: Cr D Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That Council fund the all the community projects, as per the applications received, being an allocation of \$3,880.00 from the 2012/2013 Budget.

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED CARRIED 5/2

12.4 FEES AND CHAREGES 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR

Reporting Department: Finance & Administration

Reporting Officer: Evelyn Arnold

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Schedule of Fees and Charges

Background

Historically fees and charges are adopted as part of the budget process. However, this usually occurs after the new financial year has commenced. Reviewing the fees and charges for the new financial year now allows them to be ready for implementation on 1 July 2012.

Comment

In reviewing the fees and charges input was sort from staff as a result the following changes have been made:

- New Stall Holder/ Street Trader fees
- Review of vehicle impounding fees
- Domestic and Commercial Refuse Charges increased by 5%
- Section outlining different charges for MOU holders
- Camping Section allowing for group camping at the MRCLC
- Private Works charges increased by 5%.
- Inclusion of a definition of commercial and community hirer to clarify these for staff.

Attached is the complete list of the fees and charges applied in the last two years as well as the proposed fees for the coming year.

Statutory/Policy Implications

The Local Government Act 1995 allows for the imposition of fees and charges as outlined in section 6.16 and 6.17.

Financial Implications

Any increase in fees will be reflected in the budgeted revenue.

Cr Anderson left the meeting at 3.24pm Cr Anderson returned to the meeting at 3.27pm

30875 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Anderson

Officer's Recommendation

That Council adopt the fees and charges to be effective from 1 July 2012.

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED CARRIED 7/0

30876 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Crook

That the meeting adjourn at 3.39pm

CARRIED 7/0

30877 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

That the meeting resume at 3.54pm

CARRIED 7/0

13.0 ADMINISTRATION

13.1 WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD NOMINATIONS 2012

Reporting Department: Administration **Reporting Officer:** Greg Powell - CEO

Local Government Act 1995 & legislation

governing State Development Commissions

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Correspondence

(Attachment 13.1A)

Background

The role of the Commission is to coordinate and promote economic development in the region. The Commission's strategic Intent is to ensure the Wheatbelt is valued as a key contributor to the State's prosperity. The Commission partners, plans, facilitate and promotes development that results in the Wheatbelt being a place of choice to live, work and invest. The Commission's current strategic priorities are: Effective Governance; Industry Development; Infrastructure development; Service Delivery Reform and Environmental Management. The Commission facilitates the effective implementation of a range of Royalties for Regions programs within the Wheatbelt.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is seeking nomination for 1 Local Government representative. Terms of appointment will range up to three years.

Prospective nominees should possess interest and knowledge relevant to the regional communities and live within the region.

Applicants will be considered on proven decision making abilities at an executive level; a demonstrated involvement in either the economic, social or environmental development of the region; and the demonstrated ability to work cooperatively to achieve agreed goals across a wide range of issues.

The Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, will make the appointments to the Board. Nominations close Wednesday 6 June 2012.

STATE OF MERICEDIA COOKSE MEETING MINOTES TOESDAY 15 MIN 2012

Comment

Council nominated Cr Hooper when last given the opportunity to submit nominations. At that the time the nomination was unsuccessful. Representation of the interests of Merredin specifically and the eastern Wheatbelt generally is seen as important particularly in the current climate of short, medium and long term planning becoming increasingly important.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

30878 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Anderson

Officer's Recommendation

That Council nominates Cr Crook for consideration by the Hon Minister for Regional Development as a Board Member of the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

13.2 **CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER**

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Customer Service Charter

Background

The Customer Service Charter sets out expectations for dealing with the general public and what the public can expect when dealing with the Shire of Merredin

The issues contained in the document relate to:

- Our Goals
- Our Commitment to customer service including written correspondence, telephone calls, website communications and front counter service.
- Expectations of and from customers
- Communications with the community including: Council meetings, newsletter, radio interviews, newspaper advertising, noticeboard displays, website and Facebook, business networks, bulk emails and leaflet delivery.
- Difficult customers and
- Complaints.

Comment

It is proposed to continue with the current regime and to make minor amendments such as the requirement to formalise complaints in writing and provide contact details. Time frames for responses have been standardized across the various means of communication.

Amendments are highlighted in Attachment 13.2A.

Statutory/Policy Implications

The Local Government Act 1995

Financial Implications

E042250 – Administration/Finance Advertising (Budget allocation)

30879 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

Officer's Recommendation

That Council amend the Customer Service Charter as outlined in Attachment 13.2A.

13.3 **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND STAFF**

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference: Nil
Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Code of Conduct For Councillors and Staff

Attachment 13.3A

Background

The Local Government Act 1995 states the following:

Division 9 — Codes of Conduct

Codes of conduct

- **5.103.** (1) Every local government is to prepare or adopt a code of conduct to be observed by council members, committee members and employees.
 - (2) A local government is to review its code of conduct within 12 months after each ordinary elections day and make such changes to the code as it considers appropriate.
 - (3) Regulations may prescribe the content of, and matters in relation to, codes of conduct and any code of conduct or provision of a code of conduct applying to a local government is of effect only to the extent to which it is not inconsistent with regulations

Comments

As the Ordinary Elections were held in October of 2011 and four new Councillors were elected, it is an opportune time to review the Code of Conduct. There has also been a substantial change in staff who would benefit from the review.

The Code was last reviewed on 20 July 2010 CMRef: 30387. From an Administrative perspective the code appears adequate.

Financial Implications

Nil

Statutory/Policy Implications

Local Government Act 1995

30880 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr M Morris

Moved: Cr M Morris
That the motion be put.

Officers Recommendations

That the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Staff as outlined in

Attachment 13.3A be endorsed.

13.4 WHEATBELT INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES AND PLANNING INITIATIVES

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: WRPIF Infrastructure Table Agency Comment.

WRPRF Planning Initiatives Table Agency

Comments.

Background

The Department of Planning (DoP) is preparing and will recommend to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) a Wheatbelt Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework (WRPIF). As a part of developing the framework it is intended that regional infrastructure priorities and planning initiatives are identified. This approach is consistent with that recently undertaken in developing regional planning and infrastructure frameworks for other regions, including the Pilbara, Mid-West and Gascoyne. It is intended that the framework will be used to inform State Government and other regional decision makers on the priorities for regional planning in the Wheatbelt region over a 20 year planning horizon.

Foundation lists of regional infrastructure requirements and regional planning initiatives have been developed based on existing published documents. The tables are not intended to be complete nor comprehensive, but rather the beginning of a process of identifying and prioritising the regional planning and infrastructure requirements of the Wheatbelt Region. The projects and initiatives initially identified on the foundation list are broadly classed as being those that enable or support the development of the regional economy and/or those that perform a function that caters for a regional catchment. This distinguishes them from projects and initiatives where benefits are considered to generally extend only to localised catchments or economies.

WALGA has requested Councils to review the infrastructure projects and planning initiatives listed in the attached table and add any additional information or clarification. With particular regard to the Shire of Merredin, Council is requested to:

- identify infrastructure projects and planning initiatives that should be considered that have commenced, are proposed or, are in the process of being developed;
- provide additional detail in the corresponding cells that relate to your agency's project or initiative;
- in the infrastructure table, include how Council's project(s) may affect or be affected by other infrastructure projects in the 'relationship to other projects' column; and

• in the infrastructure table, identify any risks or threats that may impact on the identified project in the 'risk/threats' column.

Comment

Council's attention is drawn to **Attachment 13.4A** and **Attachment 13.4B**. It is suggested that Merredin specific projects and initiatives be included in the table. Of note are:

- reversal of government policy on Tier 3 rail.
- other regional roads requiring reconstruction notably York-Merredin and Goomalling-Merredin.
- promotion of the opportunities available from Merredin Airport.
- utilisation of saline groundwater for potable and horticultural use.
- extension and upgrades of water and waste water reticulation.
- opportunities for bio-energy and solar power generation.

There may be other proposals identified by Council that can be added to the list.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

30881 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr M Morris

Officer's Recommendation

That Council submit comment to WALGA on infrastructure and planning initiatives.

13.5 METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - SUBMISSION

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Metropolitan Local Government Review – Draft

Findings April 2012.

WALGA Infopage and Preliminary Response.

Background

The Panel charged with undertaking a review of metropolitan local government released a draft report on 27 April, 2012. Submissions may be made up until 25 May 2012.

Comment

Councillors have previously been provided with a copy of the draft report and a further copy is attached to the agenda at **Attachment 13.5A**.

Also attached to the agenda is a WALGA Info Page together with a preliminary response developed by WALGA staff to the findings of the Panel at **Attachment 13.5B**.

It is difficult to determine the effect on regional and remote local government that could flow on from the implementation, if any, of the findings by the Panel. Clearly, the more global of the findings relating to planning responsibility, funding (particularly the rate sharing principle), the ability to establish trading concerns, whether local government commissions are seen as relevant in a State-wide context, legislative amendment including support for additional general competence powers and electoral provisions such as compulsory voting and election or Mayors (Presidents) at large are of note.

The WEROC and GECZ executive officers have identified that draft findings 3,5,8,9,11,12,15,16,17,21,22,23 may have the potential to impact on rural and regional local government. These are worthy of some scrutiny.

Councillors are requested to endorse or amend the above issues and identify further issues pertinent to the Panel's findings so that a submission can be made.

Statutory/Policy Implications

It is anticipated that wide-ranging changes to legislation will be required.

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that significant financial implication will be forthcoming in the context of funding reform and wider long term implications for funding local government operations.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council prepares a submission on the draft findings of the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel.

30882 Moved: Cr D Morris Seconded: Cr Hooper

Resolution

That Council prepares a submission on the draft findings of the Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel and reflects the adopted position of the Great Eastern Country Zone.

13.6 **STATE AVIATION STRATEGY – ISSUES PAPER**

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO Legislation: Nil

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: WA State Aviation Strategy – Issues Paper

Background

The Minister for Transport has asked the Department of Transport to develop a State Aviation Strategy (SAS) to be completed in 2012.

The vision for the Strategy is to ensure that "Western Australia will have world-class aviation services and infrastructure that support and promote the State's economic and social development."

A Steering Committee comprised of private sector and government representatives is guiding the development of the Strategy.

The first stage of the consultation process is the distribution of an Issues Paper to a targeted group of organisations.

This Issues Paper is not intended to be a definitive summary of all the current and anticipated aviation-related issues for Western Australia. It is a tool to initiate debate and discussion amongst stakeholders, as to the key issues faced by the Western Australian aviation industry now and into the future, which will inform the development of the State Aviation Strategy.

To encourage responses to the Issues Paper, a series of discussion questions are included throughout the document. Stakeholder responses are not expected to deal with all the questions raised throughout the Issues Paper, but rather target those that are most relevant to the organisation responding to the Issues Paper.

Responses to the Issues Paper must be received by May 31, 2012.

Comment

The issues paper can be found at **Attachment 13.6A**. It is aimed primarily at the larger regional airports such as Kalgoorlie, Karratha etc and how the effects that increasing aviation traffic through Perth and Jandakot is to be dealt with. It draws the conclusion that substantial upgrading of airports is beyond the capacity of many local governments. It also notes that some airports are in private hands as is the case in Merredin. As such, little comment can be made in relation to the issues raised in the paper but Council may wish to lodge a submission.

However, it is appropriate to draw the existence of the paper to the attention of the owners and operators of the Merredin airport and encourage them to comment where appropriate. It would also be useful for information purposes to seek a copy of any submission they may make.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Officer's Recommendation

- 1. That Council determines whether it wishes to respond to the State Aviation Strategy Issues Paper.
- 2. That the Paper be drawn to the attention of the owners and operators of the Merredin Airport, they be encouraged to respond and Council requests a copy of any submission they may make.

30883 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Crees

Resolution

- 1. That Council supports further development of the Merredin Airport including pilot training, fly in fly out charter arrangements, medical support facilities and further development or redevelopment of the existing airside and landside infrastructure.
- 2. That the China Southern West Australian Flying College be advised.

 CARRIED 7/0

13.7 TIER 3 RAIL CLOSURE – ROAD NEEDS REPORT

Reporting Department: Administration

Reporting Officer: CEO

Legislation: Local Government Act 1995

File Reference:

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Draft Correspondence

Background

At the last Tier 3 Alliance Meeting held in York (minutes circulated previously) it was generally agreed that a report needed to be prepared to address the perception in State Government that the previous report asserting that the shift of grain transport from rail to road was flawed.

A draft letter from the Hon Max Trenorden and the Hon Phil Gardiner has been received and it attached at **Attachment 13.7A.**

Comment

The letter is self-explanatory in the context of the background information. The two members are seeking each Council in the Grain Freight Alliance to contribute \$5000 to a \$250,000 report to redress the current Government position.

It is recommended that Council support the initiative.

It is suggested that provision for the funds be made in the 2012/13 budget. Advice can be provided accordingly.

Statutory/Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The request can be funded in the next budget as outlined above. It should be acknowledged that there will be significant long term implications should grain transfer and remain on road transport with the need for road reconstruction being accelerated.

Officers Recommendation

That provision be made in the 2012/2013 budget for a contribution towards a strategic report on grain freight road upgrade needs and that the Hon Max Trenorden and the Hon Phil Gardiner be advised accordingly.

30884 Moved: Cr Hooper Seconded: Cr M Morris

Resolution

That provision of \$5,000 be made in the 2012/2013 budget for a contribution towards a strategic report on grain freight road upgrade needs and that the Hon Max Trenorden and the Hon Phil Gardiner be advised accordingly.

CARRIED 6/1

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14.0 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

15.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

16.0 URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE PERSON PRESIDING OR BY DECISION Nil

17.0 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

17.1 Tender 08 – 11/12 Synthetic Sports Surface

30885 Moved: Cr Crees Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

That Council move behind closed doors

CARRIED 7/0

Cr D Morris left the meeting at 5.38pm and did not return.

30886 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Hayes-Thompson

That Council return to open session

CARRIED 7/0

30887 Moved: Cr M Morris Seconded: Cr Anderson

Resolution

- 1. That Council nominates ABS Sports Field as the preferred tenderer for the construction of a tennis/hockey synthetic sports surface.
- 2. That staff and consultants prepare a report on the options identified by the preferred tenderer including identifying any cost savings.
- 3. That a final decision on awarding the tender be deferred until site inspections are undertaken by the sports Council.
- 4. That a special meeting by Council be called at a time to be determined to consider the matter.
- 5. Staff to determine costs associated with an alternative of a turf surface to cater for tennis and hockey.

CARRIED 6/0

18.0 CLOSURE

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 5.43pm