

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting of the Shire of Merredin held in the Council Chambers, Corner King and Barrack Streets, Merredin on Tuesday 15 February 2011 commencing at 6.30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Councillors:	KA Hooper	Shire President
	RM Crees	Deputy Shire President
	A Carr	
	D Crook	
	P Forbes	
	M Morris	
	J Townrow	
	W Wallace	
Apology:	J Townrow	
	M Young	
Staff:	G Powell	Chief Executive Officer
	J Garrett	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
	S Grayston	Acting Executive Manager of Finance and Administration
	V Green	Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer
	J Mitchell	Executive Manager of Development Services
	D Morris	Executive Manager of Community Services
Public:	K Tengvall, D Tengvall, L Last (6.32pm), M Harper (6.44pm), D Morley (6.50pm)	

1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.30pm and welcomed those present.

2.0 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Townrow and Cr Young tendered their apologies for this meeting.

Mr Jim Flockart also tendered his apologies.

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Cr Crook left the meeting at 6.31pm.

Cr Crook and Mr Last entered the meeting at 6.32pm.

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 8 December 2009.

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

30564 Moved Cr Wallace Seconded Cr Crees

That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 8 December 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

5.0 RECEIVAL OF SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Shire President, Cr Ken Hooper, presented his report to the meeting.

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

30565 Moved Cr Carr Seconded Cr Morris

That the Shire President's report for 2009/2010 be received.

CARRIED

6.0 RECEIVAL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Greg Powell, presented his report to the meeting.

Mr Harper entered the meeting at 6.44pm.

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

30566 Moved Cr Crook Seconded Cr Forbes

That the Chief Executive Officer's report for 2009/2010 be received.

CARRIED

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The Shire President advised that extensive community consultation had occurred in the preparation of the Merredin CBD Plan and that work has commenced on the implementation of the Plan.

9.2 Revegetation Strategy

Mr Harper, representing the Merredin Wildflower Society, questioned whether the Shire of Merredin had a Revegetation Strategy for the townsite and roadside verges.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that a plan had recently been commenced to locate every tree on every street within the townsite. The plan would enable proper management of the streetscape for many years to come.

Mr Harper suggested a joint approach between the Shire and members of the Wildflower Society and would present those alternatives in writing to the Shire.

9.3 Road Works

Mr Morley questioned the quality of road works completed on Narembeen Road, East Barrack Street, Robartson Road and Goldfields Road.

The Shire President advised that while there had been issues and that these had been addressed, not all work completed was of an unsatisfactory standard.

9.4 Cummins Theatre

Mr Tengvall requested Council consider an allocation within future budgets for the revamp of the Cummins Theatre kitchen and kitchen storage area, adding that the recent restoration works on the Theatre were fabulous.

Mr Tengvall also requested the consideration of an allocation for a part time technical or ticketing officer to assist the Theatre Manager during busy times.

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The Executive Manager of Community Services advised that arrangements had been made with Library staff to assist at the Theatre when required and that volunteers could also be utilised.

9.5 Community Consultation

Mr Last suggested it would be beneficial for the Chief Executive Officer to conduct a monthly “meet and greet” sessions at the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre to enable members of the public to meet with him and discuss any issues they may have.

The Shire President believed it would be more appropriate for community members to contact any of the Councillors to discuss their queries and that the Chief Executive Officer’s time would be best spent elsewhere.

9.6 Review of Councillor Representation

Mr Tengvall raised concerns in reducing the number of Councillors for Merredin from 9 to 7 stating that any reduction would jeopardise the smaller communities within the Shire, such as Hines Hill, Burracoppin etc.

Mr Tengvall also suggested the reintroduction of a Wards system to further ensure the protection of those smaller communities.

The Chief Executive Officer responded advising that the Minister for Local Government had proposed amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 for Councils state wide to reduce the number of elected members to no more than 9 and no less than 7. A Discussion Paper has been developed and is available on the Shire’s website (www.merredin.wa.gov.au). Public comment on the Discussion Paper is invited and must be received by 4pm Friday 11 March 2011.

Mr Tengvall was advised to put his concerns in writing to enable Council to consider any submissions.

10.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm.