

SHIRE OF QUAIRADING
ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2015
COMMENCING AT 7.00PM

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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| Cr D C Richards | Shire President |
| Cr B K Caporn | Deputy Shire President |
| Cr T C Andrews | |
| Cr J A Bavin | |
| Cr C M Cousins | |
| Cr G J McRae | (from 7.12pm) |
| Mr G A Fardon | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr A J Merillo | Deputy Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr R M Bleakley | Economic Development Project Officer |
| Mr T J Newick | Manager of Works and Services |

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Mr D J Brown JP | Shire Freeman |
| Mr J F Wilson | |
| Mr J W Haythornthwaite | |
| Mrs J N Haythornthwaite | |
| Mr K F Simpson | |
| Mr F Burnett | |
| Mrs E Burnett | |
| Mr A West | |
| Mr D G Woodcock | |
| Mr N Marrett | |
| Mrs P Marrett | |
| Mr A D McRae | (from 7.12pm) |

Apologies

The Meeting resolved that apologies be received from Cr WMF Davies, Cr R C Hawksley and Mr Alan Gelmi.

CARRIED

**ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2014**

MOVED Mr D Woodcock seconded Mrs J Haythornthwaite that the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 5th February 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

CARRIED

ITEM 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ausplow

Mr Woodcock requested an update on Ausplow's proposed relocation to Quairading.

Cr Richards advised that he had been informed that there were no immediate plans for Ausplow to relocate to Quairading however he was optimistic of a scaled development in the future.

Road Issues

Mr Woodcock thanked the Manager of Works and Services for information provided relating to the Works Programme during the earlier Public Information Session.

The Manager of Works and Services explained to the Meeting the recent emphasis on Gravel Sheeting of local roads.

Mr Haythornthwaite queried what has been done on the Bulyee Road as the Chief Executive Officer said last year Funding had been approved. The Chief Executive Officer apologised for any confusion that may have occurred as there has been no external funding approved for the renewal of Bulyee Road. Mr Fardon commented that Federal "Roads to Recovery" Funds may need to be allocated to this Road as the Traffic Count is too low for consideration under the State Government's "Regional Road Project" Funding.

Mr Haythornthwaite commented "that Pothole Repairs were atrocious".

Mr Wilson commented on the Tier 3 Rail Issue.

Mr Woodcock queried whether the Strategic Community Plan had been reviewed. The Chief Executive Officer commented that the Review had not been undertaken in the past year and that Council Staff were working with Consultant Mrs Helen Hardcastle to have the Review Process undertaken in March / April 2015.

7.12pm

Cr McRae and Mr McRae entered the Meeting.

Mr Woodcock queried the outcome of the Gopher Meeting with Mr Arthur West. The Chief Executive Officer and Economic Development Project Officer explained the Consultation that had been undertaken with a number of Gopher Drivers and that a Plan of Areas of Concern and Access Issues had been prepared.

Mr Wilson commented on the need for additional gravel at the Entry into Uniting Church off Coraling Street.

Mr Woodcock commented on last year's Minutes that "Councillors not able to ring".

Mr Woodcock congratulated Cr McRae, Cr Bavin and Cr Cousins and commented on the success of the Ladies Information Session. Mr Woodcock suggested a Session for the Men of the Community.

ITEM 4 RECEIVING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

MOVED Mr West seconded Mr Burnett that the Annual Report for the Year Ended 30th June 2014 be received.

CARRIED

The meeting considered the: -

- Shire President's Report;
- Chief Executive Officer's Report;
- Annual Financial Statement; and
- Auditor's Report.

Shire President's Report

Mr Woodcock thanked Cr Richards for the Shire President's Report.

Mr Woodcock commented that he had "chuckled" at the South East Avon Regional Transition Group Members' bewilderment at the Local Government Advisory Board's decision not to support the Amalgamation Proposal.

Mr Woodcock commented that the Group were happy with change in Local Government but not the change proposed by Council.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr Haythornthwaite queried the Freedom of Information Statement. The Chief Executive Officer provided a brief overview of the Freedom of Information Legislation. Mr Haythornthwaite enquired if Information could be sought elsewhere. The Chief Executive Officer commented that ordinarily the Applicant seeking Information approaches the Council or the Agency who is responsible for keeping of the Information but there is an opportunity for the Agency's decision on the information can be review by a Third Party / State Administrative Tribunal.

The Chairman asked Mr Haythornthwaite if this answered his question and Mr Haythornthwaite said "only half" and commented that he couldn't comment any further as he has a request for information in via another avenue.

Annual Financial Statement

Mr Woodcock queried the Budget Variances on Page 4 under Law and Order. The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Actual to Budget Variance was due to the bringing to account of the additional new Fire Appliance which is fully funded from ESL.

Auditor's Report

Mr Woodcock congratulated Council on its Financial Management.

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

Grain Freight

Cr Richards reported that Council's stance on Grain on Rail is unchanged and that Council is not happy with the current situation.

The Chief Executive Officer reported that the Wheatbelt Railway Retention Alliance was lobbying hard and strong / beating head against brick wall.

Cr Richards commented that the funding and access issue having gone back to Industry hasn't worked.

The Chief Executive Officer and Shire President commented that the balance of the \$10.5M Road Funding on the York – Quairading Section of the Main Road appears to have evaporated.

Mr McRae encouraged Council to "Keep Up the Fight".

Comment was made on the possibility of "User Pays" Principle being applied to Grain Freight Road in the future and comment was made in regard to applying Tolls on Freight Routes in the Metropolitan Area.

Regional Cooperation

Cr Richards provided information on the following: -

- South East Avon Regional Transition Group (SEARTG)
- South East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (SEAVROC)
- East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (EAVROC)

The Chief Executive Officer provided details on recent investigations by the three Shires on a Common IT System.

The Shire President reported that there would be a Full Meeting of Shire Presidents, Deputy Shire Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of the EAVROC Council to be held on 24th February 2015 in Tammin.

Mr Woodcock commented on the University of New England Information which he had previously highlighted, which indicated "Amalgamations don't work".

Mr Woodcock commented that maybe Council could consider 2 Cycles of the Long Term Financial Plan (ie 20 Years).

Mr Woodcock commented on the apparent lack of Planning for the Future by Council.

The Chief Executive Officer provided detail on Council's Adopted Townsite Expansion Plan (which has been endorsed by the WA Planning Commission), Agricultural Service Industry Precinct, Shire Economic Planning since 1990 and more recently the District Aged Care Plan.

Strategic Community Plan

Cr Richards explained the Strategic Community Plan Process undertaken in 2011 and 2012 including: -

- 2 Workshops (Community Focus Group)
- 2 Years Review Intervals required by Law.

Mr Woodcock requested that he be invited to be on the Community Focus Group.

Aged Care

Mr Woodcock queried on the Aged Care Proposal near the Quairading Hospital.

The Chief Executive Officer provided detail on negotiations for a portion of the land at the rear of the Hospital and that investigations were continuing on the possible land tenure options for Ageing in Place Units.

Power Upgrade

The Chief Executive Officer provided information on the slow progress on the Power Upgrade issue as Ausplow have not progressed with their plans.

Amalgamation

Mr Haythornthwaite queried the cost and manpower costs on Amalgamation.

The Chief Executive Officer advised \$1M State Government / \$1M of Council/s In Kind.

The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that no cash had been contributed by Council as all work was funded by Government Funding.

The Shire President commented that the Council's Contribution would have been much less.

Solar Panels at Community Resource Centre

Mr Haythornthwaite queried the cost of the Solar Panels at the Community Resource Centre.

The Economic Development Project Officer advised that the 15kw System was purchased for \$22,000 with a 6.5 year Pay Back Period.

The Meeting was advised that Solar Panels may be fitted to the Shire Administration Centre in the future.

Grant Funding

The Shire President advised of challenges facing Council and the Community.

- Financial Modelling of 6% Rate Increases required.
- Asset Management Planning.
- Local Unsealed Road Network – Impact by big trucks.

Mr Woodcock commented on Natural Growth that would occur in the next 10 – 15 Years as the Metro and York expanded.

Mr Haythornthwaite advised the Meeting that he had told several businesses not to come to Quairading because of Council's attitude to not supporting competition.

The Shire President concurred that Competition is good and should be encouraged.

Mr Burnett

Mr Burnett commented on how well the Community is progressing.

Mr Burnett commented on his observations as President of the Quairading Tourist and Tidy Town Committee.

The Shire President praised the good work by Quairading Tourist and Tidy Town Committee with ANZAC Memorial.

The Shire President advised that Council appreciates the work of the Committee and all Volunteers.

Mr Wilson advised that Rotary brought Tidy Towns to Quairading.

Elected Members

Mr Woodcock stated that he understands a few Councillors won't be standing at the next Election.

Cr Richards advised that it appears that 4 Councillors will not be re-standing for Election.

Mr Woodcock enquired "How is Council seeking out Community Members as future Councillors?" The Shire President said this issue would no doubt be discussed at coming Council Meetings.

Road Issues

Mr Haythornthwaite questioned "Why do Council's Grader Drivers purposely put corrugations in roads when they are grading them?"

The Manager of Works and Services enquired whether this was a serious question. Mr Haythornthwaite confirmed yes.

The Chief Executive Officer enquired where Mr Haythornthwaite was talking about.

Mr Haythornthwaite advised Bulyee Road Shoulders and Punch Road when it was recently graded.

The Shire President said Punch Road had not been recently graded.

Communication

The Chief Executive Officer invited feedback on the earlier Information Session.

Mr McRae commented that a Breakfast Meeting might work better.

Mr Wilson commented on Ageing / Demographics of the Community.

Mr Newick commented that there was an intake of 28 children this year into the Kindergarten / Pre Primary.

The Chief Executive Officer commented that the Childcare Centre was booming since its relocation.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Cr Richards provided information in regard to Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan Committee

Fire Control

Mr McRae reported on Volunteer Services provided at Regional Fires in the last couple of weeks and commented that the Community should be very proud of all the Volunteers who attended.

Mr McRae advised that Council is very proactive with Fire Control and further commented on the excellent Fire Appliances in the District.

Staff

The Shire President provided information on the roles of the Community Emergency Services Manager and Economic Development Project Officer.

ITEM 6 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Confirmed10/02/16