



MINUTES
General Electors Meeting
Thursday, 5 February 2026

Date: Thursday, 5 February 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Council Chambers

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ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

I'm just going to cover a few formalities before we move on to the meeting

The rules for the General Electors Meeting are as follows:

General

1. Only electors of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes are entitled to speak and vote.
2. All electors must show due courtesy and respect to Elected Members, Shire officers, and other members of the public. Adverse reflection on any person will be ruled out of order.
3. Questions, statements, and motions are limited to matters within the Shire's remit under the Local Government Act 1995.

Questions

4. Electors may ask a maximum of 4 questions each.
5. Questions that cannot be answered at the meeting will be taken on notice, with written responses included in the Minutes.

Statements

6. Electors may make a statement of up to 2 minutes.

Motions

7. Motions must be moved and seconded before discussion.
8. The Mover has 3 minutes to speak to the motion.
9. The Presiding Member will check for dissent; if none, the motion is put to a vote.
10. If there is dissent, speakers may speak against the motion for 3 minutes.
11. The Mover has a 2-minute right of reply following speakers against the motion.
12. All motions are decided by a simple majority vote of electors present.

Voting

13. Voting is conducted by a show of hands; votes are not secret.
14. Each elector present is entitled to one vote per motion, but voting is not mandatory.

We acknowledge the cultural custodians of the land, the Kaneang, Pibelmen and Wadandi people. We acknowledge and support their continuing connection to the land, waterways and community. We pay our respects to members of the Aboriginal communities and their culture; and to Elders past and present, their descendants still with us today, and those who will follow in their footsteps.

ITEM 2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

Nil

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND ATTENDANCE OF GALLERY

Councillors

Councillor S Carstairs	President
Councillor R Redman	Deputy President
Councillor T Lansdell	
Councillor J Boyle	
Councillor M Fletcher	
Councillor L Pearce	
Councillor T Pratico	
Councillor S Butler	

Council Officers

Chief Executive Officer, G Adams
Director Corporate, Economic and Community Development, C Radford
Director Projects & Environment, M Gillham
Director, Development and Regulatory Services, L Guthridge
Manager, Executive Services Unit, M Morrell
Executive Assistant, K Durbin

Observers/Visitor

Apologies

Nil

Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Nil

Attendance of Gallery:

Nick Maxfield, Joann Moore, Brian Moore, Bruce Bebbington, Mark Schneider, Tessa Dittrich, Ingrid Barker

ITEM 4 DISCUSSION ABOUT CONTENTS OF ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

The Presiding Member invited Electors to put any questions regarding the 2024/25 Annual Report.

Question 1: Mr Bruce Bebbington.

In the annual report, there was only a declaration of one salary exceeding the \$130,000 amount. Did the Shire only have one employee at any time, as per section 19B of the local government administration regulations 1996, did the Shire only have at any time one employee earning a salary of \$130,000 on an annualized basis?

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Garry Adams

If that's what we reported, then yes, that would be the case. So, remembering that's only salary.

Question 2: Mr. Bruce Bebbington.

In the annual report, it also has contingent liabilities, which are the portions of land, which the Shire has contamination records against on titles. The list has changed this year to include an additional section on the railway land. Has there been an additional restriction of a contaminated site placed on the Shire, or has this been omitted in previous years for the annual report?

Response: Director Corporate, Economic and Community Development, Casey Radford

It just looks like in different order on the same page. The railway reserve is up higher on the 23-24 financial. We'll take it on notice.

There being no further questions, the Presiding Member called for a Mover and Seconder to receive the 2024/25 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

MOTION 1

Moved: Mr Nick Maxfield of Bridgetown.

Seconded: Ingrid Barker of Greenbushes.

That the 2024/25 Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Annual Report, the 2024/25 Annual Financial Statements and the 2024/25 Auditor's Report, be RECEIVED.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1: QUESTIONS

Question 1: Mr Brian Moore:

At the 2022 AGM of Electors, I put forward a three-part motion regarding parking in Bridgetown CBD. This motion was accepted at the AGM and at the next council meeting was approved by Council and became 04/0302.

The original motion reads:

That Council:

1. Conducts a review of the parking situation in the Bridgetown CBD, incorporating street parking and off-road parking, including loading bays.
2. Request the CEO to assess the capacity of Ranger Services to conduct parking patrols on a regular but infrequent basis, with emphasis on illegal parking and report back via the review of the Workforce Plan due to be completed by June 2022.
3. Request the CEO to investigate the area in front of Westpac Bank for provision of a disabled parking bay.

Despite raising the matter on numerous occasions since 2022 no result has been forthcoming. In respect to motion 3 contained in 04/0302 I have been verbally advised that Main Roads approval has been given for a disabled bay, and funds were included in the 2024/25 budget to undertake the work.

1. Can someone explain why four years later this matter has not been completed.
2. Is it the intention of council to provide an extra disabled bay in the main business district.

Response: Director Project Management and Environment, Morgan Gillham

The Shires Temporary Engineer has advised that the location at the front of the old Westpac Bank is unsuitable for the installation of an ACROD bay due to existing services and ACROD design compliance requirements ass of AS1428 2021.

An alternative location some 40 meters north has been chosen for the installation of a compliant ACROD bay. Our new permanent design engineer is commencing with the Shire on 30 March and will immediately design the bay and necessary modifications ready for issue of RFQ to market for its installation.

Question 2: Mr Brian Moore

Motion 1 of 04/0302 requested that Council Conducts a review of the parking situation in the Bridgetown CBD, incorporating street parking and off-road parking, including loading bays. Following a query raised by me, the CEO, in an email to me, stated the following, CEO Email 28/03/2024

“Once a motion is adopted by Council, you are, of course, correct in that Officers must implement the motion. However, the motion to which you refer was adopted without a source of funds for implementation and so there has been a delay. We have received a preliminary estimate of \$250,000 to perform a complete review of all the Shire’s roads and

car parks and provide recommendations to Council. Parallel to this, we are about to commence the review and re-development of the Town Plan Scheme.”

I have asked, on several occasions, for a copy of the amending motion that changed ‘a review of parking’ into a complete review of all the Shire’s roads and car parks, but I have never received an answer.

1. Will council provide me with a copy of the amending motion that changed a review of parking in the CBD into a complete review of all the Shire’s roads.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

I can be pretty confident that the CEO comment is incorrect and no such motion exists.

2. If the decision in 1. above, does not exist, does this mean that motion 04/0322 parts 1 and 2 have been ignored for 4 years? Attached to this email is the comment contained in the various “Rolling Action Sheets” that were publicly available until January 2024.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

The motion has not been actioned as far as I am aware.

Question 3: Mr Bruce Bebbington

Can I just get clarification of what was just said in that answer? Has the motion from the 2022 meeting not been modified by Council? I couldn't hear the answer. It hasn't been completed?

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

I'll clarify if you'll like. We are not aware of an amending motion that changed the review of parking into a complete review of all Shire roads and the original motion as far as we can see has not been actioned.

Question 4: Mr Bruce Bebbington

In relation to the questions that were put last year, and this is an ongoing problem with the Annual Electors meeting that the questions the answers were given aren't acted on. Question that I put up last year was a relation to the ACCROD parking at the visitor centre, which we, the previous year, the community had been told there was going to be two ACCROD bays during the year we only create one ACCROD Bay. We still do not have an ACCROD Bay at the visitor centre. There is no ACCROD sign, there is no painted line marking in the entire car park. And last year in response to the question was how much it was going to still cost, and it was going to be done by, I can check, April 2025 because the meeting last year wasn't until May. So when is the ACCROD parking bay in the visitor centre going to be completed and why has it taken so long and why are we getting these sorts of answers that something is going to be done when there is no work being achieved. And works matter, there's the outstanding issue, there was somebody who was paid for asphaltting who left the state. The work being done has that work ever been completed. It was raised by a previous manager.

Response: Director Project Management and Environment, Morgan Gillham

Firstly, I apologise for the delay in completing the ACROD bay and associated line marking in the car park. The delay has largely been due to limited contractor availability and resourcing constraints.

I can confirm that as of today, we have signed off on the purchase order for the line marking works. There is only one local line marker servicing the Southwest, and we received his pricing today. We issued the purchase order immediately, so the works - including the ACROD bay and all required line marking - will proceed as soon as he is available. While I don't yet have a confirmed date, the work is now formally engaged.

It's also worth noting that both our current and temporary engineers reviewed the original design and identified some reasonable improvements. In hindsight, it is fortunate the line marking was not completed earlier, as these adjustments will result in a better overall outcome when the works are finalised in the coming weeks.

In relation to the asphalt works, Council committed \$100,000 to micro-profiling. This was undertaken by an Eastern States contractor who was operating in the region for a period of time. They were unable to complete all of the intended works; however, payment is based on square metreage completed, so we have only paid for the work actually delivered.

Question 5: Mr Bruce Bebbington

In last year, Mr Kyron is acting CEO, did the review and in May the Shire president of the time, Councillor Lansdell, made the announcement of the outcome of it and the review, one of the things was the council felt the Shire had lost contact with the community. What initiatives has the Shire implemented since May 2025 to improve the connectivity with the Shire, improve the consultation with the Shire, communicate with the Shire, bearing in mind that you have now removed the Q&A meeting, you have maintained the maximum of three questions that any member of the public can ask at a meeting, and without notice, you have now limited the Annual Electors meeting to four questions someone can ask. Can you explain what you've done and how those initiatives are improving the ability of the community to interact with the Shire and the council?

Shire President, Cr Stephen Carstairs

Mr Bebbington, I wasn't at the meeting so I'm not aware of the review. I know the CEO wasn't here in May. I don't know if the CEO is aware of the review. I'll pass you over to the CEO.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

I can speak to some of that. Following the release of the review, a number of initiatives were implemented. In particular, the President and CEO began meeting directly with specific community groups, including representatives from the school. We also introduced Friday morning teas, where Councillors, the Shire President and the CEO met informally with community groups. These were well attended and positively received across town.

We've also worked to strengthen our communication channels - improving our website, increasing the use of Facebook for updates, and continuing to refine how we share information with the community.

Since I've been here, I've met with a number of community groups and key stakeholders, and that engagement will continue. Most recently, the new Shire President and I have been discussing further ways to strengthen our engagement, particularly with community groups and stakeholders.

A good example of this is the recent review of the Leisure Centre. We received approximately 250 survey responses and held a community session that was well attended and well received. The feedback has been extensive and will inform meaningful improvements to the BLC moving forward.

There has been significant consultation undertaken, and that will continue - particularly on matters of strong community interest, such as the Leisure Centre and other key facilities. We have also been working with Council on finalising the Strategic Community Plan. There has been substantial consultation around that as well, and once finalised, it will be shared broadly to ensure the community understands its direction and priorities.

So, I believe progress has been made. That said, there is always more we can do. If there are further suggestions about how we can engage better with the community, we are very open to hearing them and will look at how we can incorporate them moving forward.

Question 6: Mrs J Moore

I would ask a question about the rolling action sheet. How is it progressing?

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

Certainly. Rather than continuing with a rolling action sheet, the intention is to implement a formal Resolutions Register. This register will be published on the Shire's website and regularly updated as actions are progressed against each Council resolution.

The aim is to improve transparency and accountability, and to ensure that resolutions are clearly tracked and do not inadvertently fall through the cracks, as may have occurred in the past.

We recently appointed a new Governance Officer, who is currently finalising the Register. We are not far from being able to publish it, and expect the first iteration to be available within the next week. From there, we will continue refining and improving the format as part of our ongoing governance improvements.

Question 7: Mrs J Moore

So are footpaths registered on it?

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

The Register will list the resolutions made by Council and outline the actions taken in response to each one. For example, if Council resolves to undertake works relating to footpaths, the Register will record that resolution and then detail the steps taken to implement it.

This ensures there is clear visibility between Council decisions and the actions delivered by the administration.

Question 8: Mrs J Moore

So we have to move the motion to bring the footpaths into resolution. So, we do have a footpath programme and that's part of our capital works programme that's adopted by Council as part of the budget. So that also can be made available as part of our works projects, so you know which footpaths have been done and when.

Response: Director Project Management and Environment, Morgan Gillham

It'll be included in the ten-year plan, so the most recent audit was carried out in December which is a conditional audit because all roads are both sealed, unsealed and footpaths and curbs and culverts, so that forms space about ten-year plan.

Question 9: Mrs J Moore

But these footpaths were mentioned about four years ago. Apparently, the footpaths were going to be looked at from Spencer Street up to Clover's store.

Response : Director Project Management and Environment, Morgan Gillham

I think we can all acknowledge that those footpaths absolutely need replacement all the way through. We were using the Green Bush's footpath replacement design criteria around tree root management and that which is being implemented right now, and we're going to be using that as the basis for costings as well. So we know what it is going to cost to replace it. So it's a very, very similar replacement type from Asphalt, with tree root issues through the concrete.

Question 10: Mrs J Moore

I'm sure it must be costing the Shire quite a bit of money in workers' compensation or public liability with the trips and falls on the footpaths. Am I allowed to ask that?

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

Well luckily not yet, but I think it's obvious that we need to do something before someone does have a serious trip on those paths.

Response: Director Project Management and Environment, Morgan Gillham

If I can just add that the budget there will need to be significant. We know what it cost now and it will be upward of for that length. It would be upward of probably 800 - 900 thousand dollars to do that properly. Down both sides.

Shire President, Cr Stephen Carstairs

Thank you, Mrs. Moore. I don't want to pre-empt the Council plan too much, but I understand that footpaths, trails and cycleways are a priority that have been identified by the community in the 2024 survey and so I'm confident that it's going to see a lot of activity in this area going forward.

Question 11: Ms Ingrid Barker

My question just relates to Australia Day which was held the other day. I just wondered if Council has ever discussed or considered that Australia Day may be on a day other than the 26th of January.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

To my knowledge, Council has never made a resolution or stated a position on Australia Day. I know a number of other councils have, but this Council I don't think has made such a position.

There being no further questions, the Shire President declared the conclusion of question time at 6.26pm.

5.2: Statements

The following statement was read by Ms Ingrid Barker:

My statement is actually a thank you to the Shire for allowing us to go ahead and have our opening of the shed up at the community garden. That's to house the wash trailer as well as being storage and shelter for the volunteers working at the community, Landcare nursery.

So, thank you for that. We had our opening and unfortunately the Shire were not present, but we did receive an apology. So that's my thank you. Second one is to just ask would the Shire if some research was done in our community to consider whether we have Australia Day on the 26th of January and how I would or people who may think differently to that could go about presenting it to Shire to be considered.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

If Ingrid Barker wants to move a motion to that effect during section 5.3 of the meeting, then if somebody wishes to second it then it can be voted on.

The following statement was read by Mr Brian Moore:

This afternoon the Shire advised on Facebook the resignation of a local government Councillor here. Now that means three things. This is for the benefit of all Councillors here who may not have had experience with the local Government elections. As I said, there's three options. You conduct an extraordinary election to elect someone to replace the person that's left. But I believe that within two years of an election you can do a countback and someone who may have missed the outcome and then come in but I'm not sure the rules will open to that. The third and probably the most appropriate one from my point of view is you could look at a reduction of Council numbers from 9 to 7. The Department of Local Government when they did their review made a recommendation of local governments with a population of less than 5,000 will have between five and seven members.

The population of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, the census revealed the population was 5,238. So, we're marginally above the figure for five to seven members. They then went on to say local governments with a population of between 5,000 and 75,000 members will have between five and nine members. So, we're in with the big boys at the 75,000 people. So could I, in making a statement, can I ask that when the work is done to advise Councillors and respect to what action to take with the vacancy that you look at the three aspects and importantly the reduction of Council numbers because that also has a saving and that reduction would take effect from the next election. So, you would run one short for 12 months and then I would advertise vacancies to up to a number of seven. That's all I want to say.

Response: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Adams

Thank you. For clarity, the regulations changed. I think it was in 2023. So, they're different to what you described. So, there is a process that we have to go through if a position becomes vacant within the first 12 months after an election. And so we don't have any choice as to how we look to fill that position because it's become vacant within those first 12 months.

5.3: Motions

MOTION 2

Moved: Ms Ingrid Barker

Seconded: Ms Tessa Detrich

That the Shire consult with community about whether Australia Day should be celebrated and the citizen ship awards should be given out on January 26 every year.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED

MOTION 3

Moved: Mr Bruce Bebbington

Seconded: Mr Brian Moore

That in line with the shire president's announcement of 6 May 2025 regarding the 'perception the shire has lost touch with the community' and in accordance with the schedule presented in the agenda attachments for the 26 November 2025 council meeting that stated the shire conducts community forums and information sessions, precinct and township meetings, budget and strategic workshops and local events designed to strengthen participation and transparency in council decision making, that council no later than the March 2026 ordinary council meeting determines:

- A) the date of the 2026 budget planning workshop
- B) a strategic planning workshop before the presentation of draft IPS6 to council
- C) the date of precinct or town meetings to be held quarterly.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED

MOTION 4

Moved: Mr Bruce Bebbington

Seconded: Cr Lyndon Pearce

That when the modifications to draft Local Planning 6 are advertised, pursuant to the motion passed at the special council meeting on 3 September 2025, the advertising and consultation is to:

- A) include the maps with TPS3 and TPS4 and proposed changes under LPS 6 to be displayed at the shire offices, Bridgetown library and Greenbushes CRC,
- B) the proposed text and maps are to remain on the shire website, in accordance with the act, until such time as council makes a determination on draft LPS 6,
- C) a public forum be held at least three weeks before close of submissions
- D) be sent to every landowner affected by the changes, specifically but not limited to instances where:
 - 1. There is change to the R Code density including the introduction of an R code density.
 - 2. There is the introduction of restrictions for the water catchment areas.
 - 3. Flood prone areas are introduced.
 - 4. The deletion of special residential zones.
 - 5. The removal of building envelopes.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED

MOTION 5

Moved: Mr Bruce Bebbington

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Redman

That in relation to the contingent liabilities in the annual report, that in the interests of public safety and WorkSafe requirements, the shire undertakes testing of all of the sites which are accessed by the public and shire staff, with a report to be presented back to council at or by the June 2026 ordinary council meeting.

The Motion was Put and declared CARRIED

MOTION 6

Moved: Mr Bruce Bebbington

Seconded: Cr Rebecca Redman

That the council directs the shire to review and readvertise the proposal for Steere street, civic place, Stewart Street due to the changes in the area, such as the visitors centre, with a report to be presented to council by April 2026 council meeting

The Motion was Put and declared CARRIED

ITEM 6 CLOSURE

There being no further Business the meeting was declared Closed at 7:28pm.