



SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

MINUTES INDEX – 28 March 2022

Subject	Page No
Opening of Meeting.....	2
Acknowledgement of Country	2
Presiding Member	2
Attendance	2
Announcements by the Presiding Member.....	3
Presentations from/on behalf of Petitioners.....	4
Consideration of Motions	5
Closure.....	7

MINUTES

For the Special Meeting of Electors, held at the Bridgetown Leisure Centre, Monday 28 March 2022.

Opening of Meeting

The Shire President opened the meeting at 5.30pm.

Acknowledgment of Country

On behalf of the Councillors, staff and gallery, I acknowledge the Noongar People, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Presiding Member

The Shire President, Cr John Bookless was the Presiding Member for this Special Meeting of Electors.

Attendance

D Roberts, S Baxendale, N Graebner, C Lewenhoff, J Boyle, J Gasper, J Gasper, A Connor, T Deans, J Murray, G Walker, S Hawkins, P Shrachan, S Karafilis, S Bonser, T Lansdell, P Mills, B Vuckovic, S de Waal, A Day, J Small, S Tilley, L Duncan, D Achilles, P Atkins, A Rose, M White, D White, H Hoskin, M Hoskin, P Hoskin, M Forth, M Gibson, D Robertson, L Roberts, C Hill, K Baxendale, G Braun, J Herring, M Maher, J Tilley, B Punch, I Buss, M Aberle, S Meyers, D Smyly, J Linto, L Vuckovic, L Vuckovic, L Gloebe, F Roberts, L Roberts, E Roberts, D Bartlett, E Crust, A Bless, M Richards, L Evans, F Wilson, T Wilson, E Baskett, E Smith, K Miller, G Gyani, R Brown, S Whiting, C Bloor, C Barker, B Johnson, N Ryan, S Mews, B Parks, D Barrett, J Mountford, M Lockley, M Lockley, H Dale, S McIntosh, K Ellement, A Rose, B Whiteford, I Van De Griend, J Van De Griend, M Van De Griend, P Dunne, S Reynolds, R Parks, R Watts, M De Vattimo, S Evans, E Evans, J Evans, J Burns, R Burns, M Evans, M De Vattimo, M Scallan, R Kelly, R Price, J Blake, T Dittrich, A Dhu, K Watson, J Kaye, M Kaye, J Mitchell, K Greenslade, T Weaver, D Purnell, D Hansen, S Reimers, J Dittrich, J Ruwaard, T Semmens, B Caper, M Schneider, A Scroop, J Shead, M Lockley, S Browning, L Mills, S Sanzone, M Mason, B Nicholson, L Carroll, J Spargo, C Dale, B Dale, L Maxfield, N Maxfield, M Rothery, L Butler, S Sieradzki, B Winfield, L Mews, G Robertson, B Taylor, C Narr, H Paget, S Paget, M Graham, Z Murphy, A Terriguo, J Browning, J Browning, T Browning, Z Browning, S Seesank, T Clynch, M Larkworthy, P St John, E Matthews, T Lockley, S Sehm, J Butler, S Ellis, M Zhuo

Note the above attendance list has been compiled from the details provided by attendees on the attendance sheet. Some of the writing and/or details provided by persons were unable to be interpreted. It was also evident that some persons chose not to provide details or overlooked filling in the attendance sheet.

Note the above attendance list includes councillors and staff that were in attendance

Announcements by the Presiding Member

This meeting has been scheduled in accordance with section 5.28 of the Local Government Act. Under this section of the Act a special meeting of the electors of a district is to be held on the request of not less than 100 electors.

A written request was received on 24 February, signed by 270 electors, requesting this special meeting of electors be held with the details of the matters to be discussed being:

- i. Seek declaration of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes community being declared a 'Pro-Choice Community' in relation to State Government vaccination mandates.
- ii. To hear and discuss community concerns in relation to the vaccination mandates, specifically seeking a vote of electors in attendance opposing vaccination mandates and declaring Bridgetown-Greenbushes a 'Pro-Choice Community'.
- iii. To advise the Premier and State Parliament of community concerns in relation to existing mandates and request they refrain from imposing further mandates as well as removing all existing mandates currently in place.

The representatives of the electors that requested this meeting have provided notice of 5 motions they wish to present to this meeting tonight. These motions will be the first 5 motions considered. If after these motions have been dealt with any person wishes to move another motion this can be done from the floor by the person putting their hand up and approaching the microphone at the front of this room.

This meeting is being run so as to comply with current Western Australian Government COVID-19 mandates and directions. This is why we have had to separate the attendees into separate rooms as there is a maximum capacity of 150 persons per inside room. With this double court being used and the single court we can accommodate 300 persons inside. There is an overflow area outside near the pool area that can accommodate a further 200 persons.

We have a camera set up in this room to record the proceedings and there is a screen and speakers set up in the single court so that persons in that space can follow the proceedings. Unfortunately we weren't able to set up a camera in the outside space but there are speakers there for persons to listen to proceedings.

To ensure that the meeting is held in the right spirit and conviviality there are some rules we will have to follow:

- i. Everyone is to be treated with respect;
- ii. All speakers are to use the microphone in this room so that everyone can hear them speak. For those persons in the other spaces I will discuss shortly how you are able to access the microphone here.
- iii. When a person is speaking no responses from the floor, heckling, comments, etc. are to be made.

This is a meeting of electors. In short, to be an elector of this Shire you must be eligible to be on the electoral roll for the Shire. This means you must be 18 years of age or older, be a resident of this Shire or own property in this Shire. If you are an

elector you can vote on any motion. Without knowing how many people would be attending this meeting we made the decision that voting would be done on an honour basis and we wouldn't be checking off IDs of every person that attended. Therefore, if you believe you meet the definition of an elector to vote on a motion (when I put a motion to the vote) you need to simply put your hand up either when I call for votes in favour of the motion or when I call for votes against.

On each motion once it has been moved and seconded and after the mover and seconder have spoken to their motion I will be seeking other speakers, firstly a speaker against the motion, then a speaker for the motion. Once a 5 speakers for and 5 against have spoken I can put the motion to the vote.

Where a clear majority is evident from the raising of hands we will not be counting votes. However where a clear majority isn't evident we will be doing a count.

If you wish to speak at this meeting, either by asking a question or speaking for or against a motion, you will have to be signed off as an elector and have been given a wrist band to wear. If you intend to speak and haven't already obtained a wrist band please approach one of the Shire staff in attendance and they will check your eligibility to be confirmed as an elector and will give you a wrist band.

If you are in either the single court or in the outside area and you wish to ask a question or speak to a motion please see one of the Shire staff in your area and they will escort you to the microphone in this room.

Please don't try and move from one area to another. We must ensure that the number of people in each space doesn't exceed the maximum numbers permitted. If you need to use the toilets please let the staff member in the foyer area know as you walk there. If you plan on leaving this meeting early please leave through the front doors.

In the event of an emergency please follow the instructions of Shire staff. There are a number of exit doors that can be opened in an emergency.

The order of proceedings for this meeting is:

- Presentations from/on behalf of Petitioners (Pre-approved by the Shire President)
- Consideration of Motions
- Close

Presentations from/on behalf of Petitioners

Presentations, all providing reasons, statistics or stories in support of the motions proposed to be moved at the meeting, were made by the following persons:

- Simone Tilley
- Marilyn Gibson
- Michael Hoskins
- Jai Braun
- Sharon Bonser

Consideration of Motions

Motion 1

Moved L Duncan, Seconded G Braun

SE.01/0322 We request that the Council adopt this position statement (the ‘COVID-19 Vaccination Pro-Choice Statement’) and actively advocate to the State Government to remove vaccination mandate policy. The first part of the position statement to be voted on in this motion is a list of basic principles and fundamental rights that we believe are currently being violated by the State Government. We believe that the local government should advocate to the State Government in support of these fundamental rights and basic principles:

Part 1. No person should be:

- a. Prevented from performing work and unable to pay their mortgage or provide for their family. Neither should business be prevented from receiving income by being required to deny service to members of the community;**
- b. Across the State people are being discriminated and segregated based on their vaccination status. This has caused significant mental health problems that even includes suicide or suicide attempts;**
- c. Many people are being forced to do what they do not want to do so they can work and participate in society. This is coercion. No one should be mandated to undergo a medical treatment to work or participate within their local community and society;**
- d. This is a derivation of basic benefits and protections of employment through statute;**
- e. The health directions restrict access to premises such as work sites or cafes which is a violation of a person’s right to freedom of movement;**
- f. the consequence of this is that people are being restricted from participating in their community and meeting with friends;**
- g. The right to privacy has been invaded with the requirements to provide evidence of their medical details;**
- h. There should be equality before the laws but currently the unvaccinated are being subject to laws and penalties that others are not subject. This is clear discrimination and segregation.**

Carried by a show of hands

Motion 2

Moved L Duncan, Seconded G Braun

SE.02/0322 We request that the Council adopt an advocacy position statement called the ‘COVID-19 Vaccination Pro-Choice Statement’ with the content:

Part 2. That the Local Government shall:

- a. not restrict any function, property, or service of the Local Government based on vaccination status;**
- b. as far as practicable redeploy or reinstate employees of the Local Government that risk termination or have been terminated on the basis of vaccination status;**

- c. honour all obligations under contract for all persons adversely impacted as a consequence of inferred mandatory requirement for vaccination; and**
- d. establish means to compensate Local Government employees that have lost income as a consequence of termination on the basis of vaccine status.**

Carried by a show of hands

Motion 3

Moved L Duncan, Seconded T Deans

SE.03/0322 We request that the Council adopt an advocacy position statement called the ‘COVID-19 Vaccination Pro-Choice Statement’ with the content:

Part 3. That the Local Government actively advocate for:

- a. the removal of the COVID-19 mandatory vaccination policy and any associated directions made under the Public Health Act 2016 (WA); and**
- b. the repeal of any mandate or written law, or, anything done under any mandate or written law that conflicts with this position statement.**

Carried by a show of hands

Motion 4

Moved L Duncan, Seconded J Small

SE.05/0322 We request that the Council adopt an advocacy position statement called the ‘COVID-19 Vaccination Pro-Choice Statement’ with the content:

Part 4. The Local Government in performing an advocacy role will seek the cooperation of:

- a. other Local Governments across the State;**
- b. Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA);**
- c. Local Government Professionals WA; and**
- d. other professional bodies, associations, and business entities**

Carried by a show of hands

Motion 5

Moved L Duncan, Seconded L Gloede

SE.05/0322 We request that the Council adopt an advocacy position statement called the ‘Covid-19 Vaccination Pro-Choice Statement’ with the content:

Part 5. That the Council confirm in writing from the State Government what the regulator would determine the outcome would be should a worker, contractor or subcontractor pass away due to a vaccine adverse reaction at your workplace or cause injury or death to another worker due to an adverse reaction.

Carried by a show of hands

The Shire President asked if there were any further motions to be presented. No motions were proposed.

Closure

The Shire President closed the meeting at 8.19pm.

Minutes checked and authorised by CEO, T Clynch		7.4.22
---	--	--------