



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

**MINUTES INDEX – 4 March 2021**

Subject	Page No
Opening of Meeting.....	2
Acknowledgement of Country .....	2
Attendance and Apologies .....	2
Attendance of Electors .....	3
Confirmation of Minutes .....	3
Annual Report & Annual Financial Report.....	3
General Business Regarding the Financial Statements .....	5
General Business .....	5
Closure .....	9
Attachments .....	10

## MINUTES

For the Annual General Meeting of Electors, held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, 4 March 2021.

### **Opening of Meeting**

*Shire President to open the meeting at 5.30pm and welcome those in attendance.*

### **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.*

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Brian Wheatley yesterday afternoon. Mr Wheatley was the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Chief Fire Control Officer for 23 years, Fire Control Officer for Winnejump Bush Fire Brigade for 43 years and racked up an impressive 65 plus years of volunteer fire fighting service in our community. Mr Wheatley was highly regarded in the region and by the wider bushfire volunteer community having been a member on a number of regional and state level committees.

Mr Wheatley served two terms on Council between 1983 and 1988 and 2003 to 2005.

Mr Wheatley was also a member of a number of other community organisations across the Shire for many years.

On behalf of Council I would like to extend our condolences to Mr Wheatley's family and friends.

### **1. Attendance and Apologies**

President	- Cr Nicholas
Councillors	- Cr J Bookless
	- Cr J Boyle
	- Cr B Johnson
	- Cr J Moore
	- Cr J Mountford
	- Cr T Pratico
	- Cr P Quinby
	- Cr A J Wilson
Officers	- T Clynch, Chief Executive Officer
	- M Larkworthy, Executive Manager Corporate Services
	- K Dudley, Executive Assistant

## **2. Attendance of Electors**

D Roberts, L Roberts, B Moore, N Maxfield

## **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

Attachment 1

*A Motion is required to confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held 6 February 2020.*

**Moved Cr Quinby, Seconded Cr Johnson**

***E.01/0403 That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held 6 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.***

**Carried**

## **4. Annual Report & Annual Financial Report**

Attachment 2

*A Motion is required to receive the Annual Report and Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020, as presented.*

### Presiding Member:

I take great pleasure in presenting the 2019/2020 Annual Report of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. This report provides an overview of the Shire's activities during the year. I will address some of the major issues while a more detailed report is available in the Chief Executive's report.

The effective operation of the Shire only occurs through a considerable amount of dedication, hard work and resolve by councillors, management and staff. This has never been more evident than in 2019/20 with the need to meet the goals of the Strategic Community Plan, the Corporate Business Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan, and to cope with the unplanned demands of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In April 2020 Council endorsed the development of a Community Response Plan which amongst other things included a zero rate increase for 2020/21, zero increase in fees and charges, the reduction of penalty rates on rates arrears, refunding of 2019/20 alfresco dining fee and the waiving of these fees for 2020/21, and many others detailed later in the annual report. In addition to these significant reductions in income, staff agreed to a wage freeze and Councillors agreed to a 10% reduction in fees and allowances.

I would like to sincerely thank all community members, councillors, management and staff for the way in which they have all dealt with the restrictions that the Pandemic brought, which has kept our community COVID free, and has enabled the local economy to gradually recovery.

In October 2019 Council elections were held to fill two vacancies in North Ward and four vacancies in South Ward. Successful councillors in North Ward were Tony Pratico and Joann Moore, and in South Ward Jenny Mountford, Barbara Johnson, Peter Quinby and John Nicholas. I am pleased to welcome new councillors Jenny Mountford and Barbara Johnson and returning councillors Tony Pratico, Joann Moore and Peter Quinby.

I would like also to acknowledge the services of retiring councillors Pat Scallan and Doreen Mackman. Pat Scallan represented North Ward for more than 18 years during which time he made an exception contribution to the Council and the communities of Greenbushes and Bridgetown. He served on numerous Council Committees both locally and regionally and was a tireless advocate for some of the projects both here in Bridgetown and in Greenbushes, such as the new Library, the new swimming pool, the Greenbushes swimming pool, and Greenbushes community garden to name just a few. He brought a strong professional approach to Council business and was never afraid to provide the alternative opinion but always supported the final decisions of Council in a united fashion.

Doreen Mackman was a councillor for 8 years and I wish to acknowledge her contribution to Council and its decision making during that time. Doreen served on numerous Council Committees and was always prepared to argue for improved Council services to the community.

I want to wish both councillors all the best for the future and thank them for their respective contributions.

The Shire continues to be an active member of the Blackwood Alliance of Councils and the Shires of Manjimup and Nannup have now been formally joined by the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup. The Alliance permits issues of a regional basis to be addressed by the contributing Shires. Projects such as the Warren Blackwood Bridle Trail and Local Tourism Association have been the major projects during this financial year and have been achieved through the cooperation and goodwill of the respective participating Councils.

Based around the planned expansion of the Talison Lithium mining enterprise in Greenbushes and the doubling of the workforce, of which approximately 60% would reside within the Shire, Council has developed a Growth Strategy which is intended to drive population growth, create jobs, generate economic activity and increase revenue to the State. The Strategy is focused on:

- Economic Development;
- Youth and Recreation;
- Heritage and Tourism; and
- Safety and Industry

Through a series of meetings planned to lobby State Government politicians we have been able to secure some funding toward the first of the projects in the Strategy. We have also been fortunate to secure some Commonwealth funding to these projects. Shire funds together with these State and Commonwealth funds will see four of the projects completed next financial year.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those people who give generously of their time volunteering in the myriad of community groups in the Shire. You are the people that keep this community safe, ensure that it is a vibrant and appealing community to both residents and visitors alike.

**Moved Cr Pratico, Seconded Cr Wilson  
E.02/0403 That the Annual Report & Annual Financial Statements for the  
2019/20 year be received as presented.**

**Carried**

**5. General Business Regarding the Financial Statements**

Nil

**6. General Business**

Mr Brian Moore

Question

I am concerned with the number of sub standard sealed roads we have in Bridgetown. It appears that these roads have been dug up to facilitate sewerage or drainage works then filled in and resealed. Subsequent to these repairs the fill sinks and the road subsides.

- (1) Does the Shire have any form of remedy that requires the Agencies involved to return and undertake rectification work, or does this simply become the Shire's responsibility?

Response

*Legally there isn't a remedy as service authorities have a legal right to work within the road reserve. Where inadequate compaction of filled service duct trenches leads to subsidence of the trench in the road carriageway this typically isn't evident until about a year after the works occurred. This has been an issue for the local government sector for many years and WALGA has lobbied on the issue for many years without great success. Shire works staff has also noticed many examples on our roads of subsiding trenches and will attempt to contact relevant service authorities to request remedial works occur.*

Question

In November 2012, the shire approved the establishment of a childcare/daycare facility on the corner of Famers Lane and Roe Street.

The approval contained a number of conditions and advice notes including the monitoring of the roads to ensure that the parents of the children did not cause damage to the Shire's roads. Further, the Shire required the applicant to provide 6 parking bays on the property.

That wasn't the end of it, Condition 5 required that any overflow parking is to utilise the on street parking on Roe Street only, and no parking is permitted on the verge area of Farmers Lane, without specific consent from the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

- (1) Can the CEO please advise whether the monitoring of the road condition near the property has revealed any damage caused by parents dropping the children off at the day care facility.

Response

*No damage to the road has been identified.*

- (2) Can the CEO advise why, such parking restrictions were imposed when apparently it is not against Shire rules to conduct a business from Farmers Lane, with no off-street parking and to leave numerous work trailers and small earthmoving machinery parked in the marked bays for weeks on end.

Response

*The conditions of development approval for the outbuilding approved in 2014 will be assessed to determine if compliance is occurring and if not, what action is necessary. The Shire is aware that many trade businesses store products in sheds at their place of residence or park equipment. Typically this type of activity hasn't been considered to be a 'home based business' and therefore development approval isn't required. This is on the basis that impacts on adjoining businesses are negligible. The circumstances of the business operations, including on-street parking will be investigated.*

- (3) The provision of 6 parking bays completely destroyed what was the backyard of this building turning it into a sealed hard surface. Is there any possibility that this condition can be amended given that the schools opposite are not required to provide off road parking for the parents to drop their children off?

Response

*Council has the power to amend conditions of approval if an application for such is submitted by the proponent. With respect to comparing with nearby schools it should be noted that St Brigid's School does have a car park for some staff. Although Bridgetown Primary School doesn't have a car park a few years ago the Department of Education did make a monetary contribution to the redevelopment of car parking in Rose Street. Local government development approval isn't required for Government schools.*

*The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes did lobby the Department of Education approximately 10 years ago for a staff car park and drop off/pick up zone to be constructed within the school grounds however the Department, after conducting preliminary investigations determined that mainly due to topography a car park couldn't be sited within the school grounds. It was this process that led to the Department of Education making its monetary contribution to improvements to on-street parking near the school.*

*Also it should be noted that the original date of development of both schools goes back a long time and the consideration of parking may not have been topical at that time.*

### Question

Bridgetown is well known for its main street “streetscape”, and it is a talking point for visitors to the town. Some years ago the footpaths were replaced by brick paving. Since that time, apart from one general maintenance of sunken bricks, no other remedial work has been undertaken.

- (1) Has any consideration been given to a pressure clean of the main street footpaths?

### Response

*This will be considered utilizing either contractors (subject to budgeted funds being available) or internal resources.*

A walk along the main street also reveals numerous down pipes outside businesses that require replacement and/or repair. This presumably is the responsibility of the shop owners.

- (1) Can the Shire impose work orders on the owners of these premises, and will they?

### Response

*The poor standard of gutters and downpipes on some verandahs of buildings in Hampton Street have been noticed. When the gutters or downpipes can't function effectively road users can be affected. The Shire does have power to issue orders but in the first instance would seek to engage with those property owners to get the problems fixed. Failing that orders under relevant legislation can be issued.*

I also notice that, on occasions, dog faeces can be seen on the footpath. It would be beneficial to have “doggy poo” bags available somewhere along the Hampton Street. Possibly Settlers Rest may be the ideal spot.

- (1) Would the shire consider this request please?

### Response

*Yes this can be considered. Council includes funds in its budget for these bags and associated signage.*

### Question

Forrest Street between Barlee Street and the Primary School

There is faint evidence on the road surface that parking restrictions have been in place on Forrest Street in the past. I have been requesting the remarking of these restrictions for some time now without success. Realistically, parents stopping to pick up their children from the back of the school will not cease no matter what markings or restrictions are placed in the area.

- (1) Perhaps prior to any new marking being undertaken, the area could be examined by Shire staff or the Roadwise committee to establish whether any other suggestions could be made re the safety of children arriving and departing the school.

Response

*The parking on Forrest Street has been piece meal over several years. A safety audit of this precinct could be undertaken. So as to properly engage with the school and Department of Education it would be recommended that an independent consultant conduct the safety audit.*

Mrs Lois Roberts

Question

I would like to put forward a motion that the Shire do two things to encourage tourists to stop, and linger in town:

1. They allocate funding for garden FTE plus funding to support purchase of and planting of seasonal plants to enhance the streetscape of Hampton Street, supporting the good volunteer work done with the hanging baskets.
2. They look at public toilet facilities and allocate funding to:
  - a. Deep clean and update these one at a time and
  - b. Ensure a timetable be drawn up, funding and FTE allocated to maintain this on an agreed ongoing, timetable rotation.

**Motion Moved L Roberts, Seconded Cr Pratico**

***E.03/0403 That council allocate funding for garden FTE plus funding to support purchase of and planting of seasonal plants to enhance the streetscape of Hampton Street, supporting the good volunteer work done with the hanging baskets.***

**Carried**

**Motion Moved L Roberts, Seconded Cr Boyle**

***E.04/0403 That council look at public toilet facilities and allocate funding to:  
a. Deep clean and update these one at a time and  
b. Ensure a timetable be drawn up, funding and FTE allocated to maintain this on an agreed ongoing, timetable rotation.***

**Carried**

Mr Nick Maxfield

Question

Peninsula Road is being sealed, which is an excellent outcome for a potentially dangerous piece of road. However, with that comes the potential for increased speed along the road. The current speed limit changed from 50km/h to 70 km/h and people don't abide by those limits, I think with the widening of the road, they will drive faster.



I would like the Shire to consider reducing the speed limit, at least to 60km/h until it passes the residential area.

Response:

*The Shire can put this to Main Roads WA to consider.*

**Motion Moved N Maxfield, Seconded Cr Pratico**

***E.05/0403 That the Council request Main Roads WA to consider reduction of the speed limit on Peninsula Road between Hampton Street and Maslin Reserve, to take effect on completion of the current road construction is completed.***

***Carried***

Question

One of the objectives of the Shire is to encourage and support the youth of this town, I was quit disturbed a month or so ago when I learnt that the Blackwood Youth Action Group, when they were running their skate park function for the kids were not supported by the Shire in allowing them to access an external tap on the toilet building, the usage of the power outlet from the library or to unlock the bollard between the kiosk and skate park to allow equipment to be moved through easily. I want to ask why this event wasn't supported by the Shire and why the attitude prevailed.

Response

*The CEO advised that he would investigate further.*

**7. Closure**

*Shire President to close the meeting at 6.00pm*

**8. List of Attachments**

<b>Attachment</b>	<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Details</b>
1	3	<i>Minutes of the AGM of Electors held 2 February 2020</i>
2	4	<i>Annual Report &amp; Annual Financial Report 2019/2020</i>

Minutes checked and authorised by CEO, T Clynch		12/03/2021
--	--	------------

**CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES**

As Presiding Member, I certify that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held 4 March 2021 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting at the Annual Meeting of Electors held on .....

.....(Date).....