



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

held on

Thursday, 21 February 2019



WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S
WILDFLOWER COUNTRY

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Item 1 Opening of Meeting

The President declared the meeting open at 5.00pm.

Item 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The President acknowledged the traditional custodians, the Yamatji people, and recognised the contribution of Yamatji elders past, present and future, in working together for the future of Morawa.

‘This meeting is being recorded on audio tape and to assist with minute taking purposes. The public is reminded that in accordance with Section 6.16 of the Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 that nobody shall use any visual or vocal recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of Council without the written permission of the presiding member.

Members of the public are also reminded that in accordance with section 6.17(4) of the Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 mobile telephones must be switched off and not used during the meeting.’

Item 3 Recording of Attendance**3.1 Attendance****Council**

President Karen Chappel
Councillor Jane Coaker
Councillor Debra Collins
Councillor Shirley Katona
Councillor Ken Stokes

Staff

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Manager Corporate Community Services
Principal Works Supervisor
Acting Manager Development and Administration
Economic Development Manager
Executive Assistant to CEO

Chris Linnell
Jenny Goodbourn
Paul Buist
Grace French
Ellie Cuthbert
Sandy Adams

Members of the Public

Damian Ryan, Carol Penn, Lindsay Chappel and Peter North. John Pulbrook entered the meeting at 5.16pm.

3.2 Attendance by Telephone / Instantaneous Communications

Nil

3.3 Apologies

Deputy President Dean Carslake, Cr Darren Agar, Chris Moffet, Daniel James and Sylvia Buist.

3.4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil

Item 4 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION

190201 Moved: Cr Stokes Seconded: Cr Collins

That Council confirm that the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Thursday, 15 March 2018 are a true and correct record.

CARRIED 5/0

Disclaimer

Members of the public are cautioned against taking any action on Council decisions, on items in this agenda in which they may have an interest, until formal notification in writing from the Shire has been received. Decisions made at this meeting can be revoked pursuant to the Local Government Act 1995.

Item 5 Annual Financial Report

The Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2018 was presented by the Chief Executive Officer. The Financial Report included Operating Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION

190202 Moved: Cr Coaker Seconded: Cr Collins

That the Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2018 as presented be received.

CARRIED 5/0

Item 6 Auditor's Report

The Audit Report for the year ending 30 June 2018 authored by RSM Australia Pty was presented.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION

190203 Moved: Cr Collins Seconded: Cr Stokes

That the Audit Report from RSM Australia Pty for the financial year ending 30 June 2018 be received.

CARRIED 5/0

Item 7 President's Report

Shire President Cr Karen Chappel presented the President's report to the meeting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION

190204 Moved: Cr Katona Seconded: Cr Coaker

That the President's Report for the 2017/18 financial year be accepted.

CARRIED 5/0

Item 8 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Chris Linnell presented the Chief Executive Officer's report.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL RESOLUTION

190205 Moved: Cr Coaker Seconded: Cr Collins

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report for the 2017/18 financial year be accepted.

CARRIED 5/0

Item 9 General Business

9.1 Questions from Electors

9.1.1 Chris Moffet

1. *“What is the Shire budget for picking up household/commercial rubbish?”*

Response:

Budgeted Rubbish collection	= \$105,509
Actual expenditure collection	= \$ 97,875

Total Budget Tip Maintenance	= \$123,023
Actual expenditure maintenance	= \$ 94,053

Total Collection & Tip	= \$228,532
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TOTAL ACTUAL COST	= \$191,928
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2. *How much are we raising from the rubbish charge?*

Response:

Total rubbish charges raised budget = \$176,700

Actual rubbish charges raised = \$170,624

The difference between the actual cost (\$191,928) and that actually raised (\$170,624) is made up from general revenue.

3. *The State Government are planning on a three bin recycling reform, how will the Shire prepare for this?”*

Response:

The Shire of Morawa will undertake a review of all aspect of waste management in the Shire during 2019, with a focus on future management solutions. This work will also consider the State Government’s position on the ‘three bin’ plan and how this would realistically be managed in a shire such as ours.

9.1.2 Damian Ryan

“In late October I summited to the shire office a notice of item requiring attention, Stating that Moffet road, Dreghorn Road, Coaker Road were seriously in a degraded state and would require grading before harvest ,also the bitumen lead ups to the Morawa Mingenew Road on the Old Threesprings and Dreghorn Road had pot holes and would deteriorate if not repaired before harvest cartage started.

Moffet Road was graded and that was all.

A letter was received (RD.MTC.12) stating that all would be done before harvest.

My rates on a my property has increased by 201 % over the last 10 years, 139%

over the last 5 years and I would like to know what the Shire has done with the extra money, certainly not used it to up keep the roads in good condition. I have never seen Moffet road with a series of large pot holes in the middle of the road full of water in my life time (quite some years)

Before it was called the Morawa Shire it was called the Morawa Roads Board as our predecessors could see the need for good roads, this still equates to day.

One of the basic requirements of a country shire council is to maintain roads. I feel that the Shire has forgotten rural rate payers.

With the amount of rates paid by probably two or three farmers we could buy a grader and have a full time grader driver employed.

The Question; When is the Morawa Shire going to get the roads back in good condition so its rural rate payers can carry out our everyday activities and see some return for our rates.”

Response:

Main Roads WA are responsible for the Morawa – Mingenew Road. Part of this responsibility includes the sealing of Shire roads (up to 10m) that connect into their roads.

To ensure best value, due to the cost of mobilization of sealing contractors, the Shire of Morawa accumulates a level of works before it engages a contractor. The Shire did try to engage Safe Roads WA before Christmas but they were not available due to workload. Prior to harvest Moffet Road was graded but the other roads in question when inspected were not deemed to require work at that time.

All roads are maintained constantly, being graded following the damage done during harvest and are maintained all year round on rotation.

Comment:

With regard to the 201% rate increase over 10 years, the ‘Rate in the Dollar’ in 2009/10 was 1.5360c which has increased to 2.3481c in the 2018/19 financial year. This equates to an overall rise of around 52.5% over the 10 years. A key element that plays a role in the actual money paid is the valuation placed on the property, which is managed and set by the State Government’s Valuer General based at Landgate.

9.1.3 Daniel L James

1. *“The Report on the Corporate Plan (Page 16) states the main street is the civic and retail heart connecting the town and there is ongoing maintenance of the town square . The information board in place at the car park has not been updated as the upgrade of the roads is not shown. The report seems to focus on Winfield Street as the retail heart yet Solomon Terrace has the largest business being the Morawa Hotel, my business Middle Earth and surrounding businesses in other streets including Everlastings, HI Power Diesel, sporting clubs, police, ambulance and fire services which seem to have been ignored in the report. Maintenance of the town square and overall around town has deteriorated in the last 12 months as there is rubbish, weeds and lack of general care and maintenance of gardens in parks in Winfield Street and Solomon Terrace . Garden*

beds in both main streets are in a bad condition with weeds, rubbish and general lack of care. Planters in Winfield Street seem to be uncared for.

When are we able to see the information board updated and maintenance to be done on a regular basis?

Response:

The comment regarding the upgrading of the information board is relevant and will be taken into consideration.

Attention is given to the central business area on a daily basis. This work involves an assessment of what is required and can then include:

- picking up of rubbish
- maintaining the garden beds in all streets
- watering/weeding of the planters every second day during the week.

We also maintain all parks and gardens on a weekly basis.

With the current level of service provided it is difficult to maintain the high standard we would wish for all year round due to the significant summer heat and winds.

With regard to the ‘deterioration’ in the last 12 months, the Shire has worked hard to improve the appearance of the town during this time with the following projects:

- Activation of shopfront window with historical stickers and contra-vision in Winfield Street.
- Planters have been placed along Winfield Street.
- A joint clean-up with MEEDAC and Karara Mining in Winfield Street, Solomon Terrace and Prater Street took place this financial year prior to the commencement of the ‘wildflower season’.
- The Shire started and completed both the Heritage Trail and the Widimia Bush Trail.

Future activation work is budgeted for in the current financial year for Solomon Terrace and Prater Park.

2. *Arrears shire rates (page 48) the breakdown of arrears shows there are \$577,576 with about one half being one to three years or more in arrears.*

Does that amount include the rates outstanding of the elected members which stands at \$58,790 at the end of the financial year? (page 37)

Response:

Yes, the amount of \$577,576 is the total amount of rates outstanding as at 30 June 2018, and includes the amount of \$58,790 shown under note 19.

What steps has the Council taken to:

- a) *Reduce the amount of outstanding rates from all ratepayers including elected*

members?

Response:

The Shire sends out final demands for rates outstanding past the due date. Then, if required, recovery action is commenced on the rates that still remain unpaid. This may be via contacting the owner directly and entering into a payment arrangement, or by referral to a debt collection agency if we have been unable to reach the owner or come to an arrangement.

b) *Ensure that outstanding rates do not progress past one year.*

Response:

It is not always possible to prevent rates going into arrears by more than a year. Arrangements made are not always adhered to and some people have experienced circumstances beyond their control. We have to focus on working with the rate payers to help them get their debt under management and reduce the outstanding amount. Under the Local Government Act 1995 it is possible to sell a property once it has more than three years rates owing. This is quite a protracted process and should only be taken as a last resort. Property sales in Morawa are quite low and we need to take this into consideration when assessing a recovery action.

3. *The Audit Report states that about 39% of purchases sampled by the Auditor there is inadequate or no evidence that a sufficient number of quotations was obtained to test the market and no documentation to explain why other quotes were not sought which may have prevented receiving value for money.*

What steps has Council put in place to ensure value for money obtained for all purchases in the future?

Response:

Council has a purchasing policy, as required under the Local Government Act 1995, which sets different requirements for different levels of expenditure. Following advice from the Auditor that some of the purchases did not appear to be compliant, senior staff have been re-advised of the policy requirements and the necessity to ensure the correct procedures and number of quotes are obtained. This has been reinforced with all staff involved in purchasing for the Shire. The Shire always endeavors to obtain the best value for money on its' purchases and employs a "buy local and regional preference" where possible.

John Pulbrook entered the meeting at 5.16pm.

9.1.4 Sylvia Buist

"Congratulations to Council and Staff for opening the lines of communication within the community, it has had a very positive affect on the community. The NAIDOC Day was a great source of showing how the Shire and the community can work together and is one of the best events I have ever attended since living in Morawa. Unfortunately I am unable to comment on any improvements I hope had been made to the Annual Electors Booklet as I

have not been able to access or find it on the website, after looking and searching for an hour last night. Once again congratulations on the improvements made in the past 12 months and keep up the great work."

Response:

The Annual Report is on the Shire Website as advertised and this information has been relayed to Sylvia Buist.

There being no further questions, the President thanked everyone for attending, the Councillors for their contribution as well as the CEO and all staff.

Item 10 Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 5.27pm.

..... Presiding Member