

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SERPENTINE JARRAHDAL SHIRE, MUNDIJONG ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2011. THE PRESIDING MEMBER DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 7.00PM AND WELCOMED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, COUNCILLORS AND STAFF.

1. ATTENDANCE:

COUNCILLORS: S Twine Presiding Member
 M Harris
 C Buttfield
 MJ Geurds
 C Randall
 T Hoyer
 E Brown
 A Ellis
 K Petersen
 A Lowry (arrived at 7.07pm)

OFFICERS: Ms J Abbiss..... Chief Executive Officer
 Mr A Hart Director Corporate Services
 Mr R Gorbunow Director Engineering
 Mr B Gleeson..... Director Development Services
 Mrs S van Aswegen..... Director Strategic Community Planning
 Ms P Kursar..... Minute Secretary

APOLOGIES: Nil

GALLERY: 7

Cr Hoyer left the chambers at 7.02pm and returned at 7.03pm

Cr Hoyer left the chambers at 7.04pm and returned at 7.05pm

2. TABLING OF 2009/2010 ANNUAL REPORT including:

2.1 Reading of President's Report

2.2 Reading of Auditor's Report

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Questions received and answers to the questions

Public question time commenced at 7.14pm

Dennis Grimwood – 7 Sapphire Court, Mt Richon

Q1 At last year's Annual Meeting of Electors I asked Council to clarify the status of extensive stands of trees in the Darling Views Estate, Mardella. In view of the current experience with bush fires in Kelmscott / Roleystone, will the Shire/Local Government cause the trees to be removed?

By the way, I took the matter up with the local district fire officer in charge of the area. He told me the trees had been planted for drainage purposes by the subdivider. The species were selected by FESA and the Department of

Environment. The trees are eucalypt and prone to fire storm. You issue a fire notice requiring them to be removed and then say that they cant. This was discussed last year. When do you intend to answer the question?

- Q2 In the minutes of Council's meeting of 27 April 2010 my public question was recorded as a statement, ie changed by editing. When do you intend to answer the question? (A non-response is a clear breach of the Local Government Act).

The demolition is a result of selective public activism. Council demolished the Nairn property in Byford on the Scarp. Where in Council's town planning scheme is there for community groups to set up and operate?

- Q3 At that same meeting the CEO cut across the chair and entered into an interchange with a ratepayer. Who is in charge – the master or the servant?

- Q4 On Radio 6PR yesterday a caller from this area asked the guest Craig Woolbridge of Main Roads WA, when the intersection on the South Western Highway that feeds Mundijong will provide for a turning lane for stationery or slow moving vehicles. The response was that there are no plans to improve this intersection. Given the extreme risk to motorists using this intersection, has Council done anything to date to initiate corrective action? If not, will Council do so?

- Q5 The Byford retail centre is poorly serviced by parking facilities. It is apparent the Shire has modified the T intersection near the post office and bank by installing some road base. However, this has created an area which is not sign posted and where it is not clear where the road finishes and parking facilities commence. Will Council do something to rectify this situation to encourage people to use the Byford centre facilities?

The Shire President advised that the questions would be taken on notice and responded to in writing.

John Kirkpatrick – 77 Mead Street, Byford

The Shire promotes itself as Green, Walker and Bicycle friendly. It also employs a large number of staff to do so.

- Q1 Why then in the past year have we not made more effort to keep people out of cars?

There is a distinct lack of effort in the construction of both footpaths and dual use paths. The intersection of Warrington and Abernethy is a good example. It only needs about sixty metres of path to connect up about two kilometres of dual use path.

- Q2 It is only a matter of time before we have a fatal crash there. I realise that at present any connection would only be temporary as Abernethy Road is to be rebuilt, but what is the cost of a life worth?

The Shire promotes a green environment but does very little to make it happen. Where I live there are now hectares of verge planted out with lawn (that would not be out of place in England) and the occasional token tree. We waste large quantities of water on this and watering the bitumen road, not the mention the fertiliser that runs off into our waterways. The type of trees planted does not give any cover for the

small native birds like the striated pardalote or the blue wren. Bandicoots thrive only a few hundred metres away, but will never come close for lack of vegetation cover.

The Shire spends tens of thousand of dollars on planting trees that mainly die through lack of attention in the first year but could avoid this by planting the correct plants with the sub-division plans. The Shire controls the verges but does not follow up with the re vegetation. This is a simple planning matter.

Q3 The Shire has a Community Development Department that organises the Australia Day Function, but what does it do for the rest of the year?

They do not even run the seniors morning tea anymore. Anything that is for the benefit of the ratepayers seems to be driven by the community with the department being dragged along kicking and screaming hoping to pick up a few brownie points. They must generate enough paperwork to justify their being employed but at what cost to the community. They have managed to hijack the locality funding so they will be able to throw a few morsels to the famished crowd. With this change it took away the incentive for the community to help itself but the department keeps control of the purse strings.

With the exception of one or two officers it would appear from the outside that the inmates have taken control of the asylum and all the Council does is rubber stamp the majority of their decisions.

It has been a real eye opener over the last ten months to see and hear how unpopular this Council is in the community. The perceived lack of decision making and vision is disappointing. The comment always is the Shire does nothing for us and does not listen to us. In the community that I live in, we pay about one thousand dollars a year rates each and all we get for it are the street lights and half of them do not work. If this were a school report it may well say needs to improve dramatically, must learn to make hard decisions.

The Shire President reminded Mr Kirkpatrick that up until last year he was previously a member of Council and advised that these questions would be taken on notice and responded to in writing.

Kerry Liddelow – 30 Mader Road, Mundijong

Q1 At the open question meeting held at the football oval in 2009 I recall the question asking about the rates ratio and funding. We were told that the Shire envisages raising \$9 million in rates in 10 years. Reading the current annual report the \$10 million has been raised. What is the estimate for the next ten years?

A1 The Shire President responded that the fully costed plan for the future will show what we are putting in for next 2 years. Even in 10 years time, the Shire will still be having difficulties as the rates are a very small part of income.

Q2 Are you aware if we will have further rate rises?

A2 The Shire President advised that a decision has not been made and the calculations will be provided to Council for a decision, however we will endeavour to keep the rate rise moderate.

Public question time ended at 7.27pm

- 3.2 Any other business
Nil

4. CLOSE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 7.28pm.

I certify that these minutes were confirmed at the
Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 February 2011.

.....
Presiding Member

.....
Date