



Shire of
Serpentine
Jarrahdale

General Meeting of Electors

Minutes

6.30pm

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Contact Us

Enquiries

Call: (08) 9526 1111
Fax: (08) 9525 5441
Email: info@sjshire.wa.gov.au

In Person

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)



www.sjshire.wa.gov.au



2. Annual Report, incorporating Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2020:

2.1 Shire President's Report:

Shire President, Councillor Rich read the 2019 - 20 Shire President's message.

I am pleased to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report as published in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's Annual Report.

The second half of the financial year presented the world with the biggest health and economic challenge we have ever faced, COVID-19.

At a local level, we were not immune to these challenges at Serpentine Jarrahdale, with the Federal and State Government restrictions implemented to keep our communities safe.

As WA begins to emerge from restrictions and we commence our social and economic recovery, I would like to say thank you to the Serpentine Jarrahdale community.

The resilience you have demonstrated and the community spirit you have shown is something we can all be proud of, and provides us with the strength to grow back stronger from COVID-19, together.

While we have tackled the challenges of COVID-19, I am pleased that as a Council, administration and community we have continued to work together over the past 12 months to deliver significant social, environmental and economic outcomes for the benefit of our residents, ratepayers and businesses.

The past year saw the completion and progress of a number of key projects for our community, including the \$3.9 million Briggs Park upgrade and the opening of Byford Bark Park, while significant progress was made with the \$19 million Abernethy Road upgrade.

The duplication of Abernethy Road from the South Western Highway to Gordin Way and the improved road conditions to Kardan Boulevard has eased congestion and improved traffic flow through Byford.

The Shire acknowledges that this project was made possible due to funding contributions from the National Stronger Regions Fund and Main Roads WA.

Following extensive community consultation, Byford has its first designated dog park, with Byford Bark Park officially opened in January.

The park has proved a huge success with hundreds of dogs and their owners using the facility each week.

It is fantastic to see the range of sports being played at Briggs Park, following upgrades to the upper and lower ovals, including repairs and improvements to aging drainage infrastructure, as well as the installation of new floodlights and facilities for the local sporting clubs.

These projects are critical to support our growing community and we look forward to continuing to partner with the State and Federal Governments to deliver the infrastructure required for the benefit of our residents.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Despite interruptions between March and June, the Shire was still able to offer a range of events and programs throughout the year. Highlights include:

- Hosting the SJ Community Fair;
- Inaugural SJ Garden Week activities;
- A Christmas Extravaganza along Abernethy Road;
- Opening of the Byford Bark Park;
- Australia Day Citizenship and Awards Ceremony;
- Summer Splash and Concert Weekend;
- Opera at the Mill event at the Jarrahdale Heritage Mill; and
- Anzac Day online video.

It promises to be an exciting year as we continue to welcome nearly two new families to the Shire each day.

We look forward to seeing key infrastructure projects progress, including Byford Metronet and the Tonkin Highway extension.

With the next State election due in March 2021, the Shire will continue to advocate to the major political parties for commitments to support the delivery of key projects and infrastructure to support our rapid population growth.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the staff for the work they have undertaken throughout the year. Their work ethic, commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year can be seen throughout this report.

To outgoing Councillors Samuel Piipponen, Dave Gossage and Jacqui See, thank you for your contribution and your commitment to our community during your time on Council.

Welcome to incoming Councillors Lauren Strange, Dean Strautins and Michael Dagostino, as well as our new Chief Executive Officer, Paul Martin.

I look forward to a successful year ahead as we continue to make Serpentine Jarrahdale the best place to live, work and play.

Cr Michelle Rich
Shire President

2.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report:

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Paul Martin read the 2019 - 2020 Chief Executive Officer's Report.

I am pleased to present my first report after joining the Shire in September 2019.

Like every organisation, we had to adapt and respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

From the outset, the health and wellbeing of our community, councillors and staff has been our key focus and priority, and I am proud at how we responded to relevant Federal and State Government directions to keep our community and organisation safe.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

While responding to the changing COVID-19 event, I am proud of how the organisation responded, and adapted, to the rapidly changing situation to ensure we were able to deliver business continuity across our 18 service teams.

Considering the speed and volume of the change that was required, staff continue to demonstrate a commitment and willingness to embrace technology and new ways of working, while keeping the community front and centre in the delivery of our services and programs.

COVID-19 has provided us with the opportunity of exploring new ways of working and we will continue to explore and implement technology and new initiatives as a growing and maturing organisation.

We know that the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 will be long-lasting, which presents us with the dual challenge of supporting our local recovery while ensuring we continue to keep up with the pace of the Shire's population growth.

The major review of our Corporate Business Plan provided Council the opportunity to prioritise the many strategic planning documents prepared over recent years into tangible Shire's services, programs and projects to ensure they deliver upon the needs of our community, while also being achievable and affordable.

The Corporate Business Plan 2020-24, adopted in June 2020, provides the administration with clear direction on the Council's aspirations over the next four years. This is also the first time as an organisation we have integrated the Corporate Business Plan with the Long Term financial plan, as well as a renewed focus on the financial sustainability of the Council so we can deliver more projects within our capital works program.

Investment in our Technology One software will continue as we implement new modules and systems to support greater integration and efficiencies in our processes, systems and workflows, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Together with our investment in Technology One, and the Shire's ongoing commitment to identify efficiencies, over the past two years we have increased our capital works expenditure by 38 per cent, while our expenditure on workforce remains unchanged over the same period.

We also underwent a mini organisational structural review in March to better align certain roles to upcoming projects and operations to enhance the service the Shire provides to the community.

The Shire now has 18 service teams across five directorates, with service team plans developed to outline their key functions and measurements to demonstrate their impact upon our Strategic Community Plan and the delivery of the Corporate Business Plan.

The Council has identified three key strategic projects for the future, which include the development of the Keirnan Park Recreation Precinct, Trails Development, and an upgrade and long term planning of the Shire's Administration Building and Operations Centre.

These three projects will ensure we meet the need for increased access to modern sport and recreation facilities, enhance our economic development and tourism



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

opportunities and provide the required facilities to meet our current and future staff accommodation requirements.

It is an exciting time for our community and the Shire will continue to collaborate with our community and other levels of government to deliver against the four pillars of the Strategic Community Plan – People, Place, Prosperity and Progressive.

Thank you to our passionate community for being engaged with the organisation. Thanks to the Councillors for your support, guidance and direction you have provided over the past 12 months.

And a particular thanks to the staff of the Shire - without your efforts, professionalism and drive we would not have been able to deliver these outcomes.

I look forward to continuing to leading the organisation to deliver the projects and initiatives that the Council and community desire over the coming years.

Paul Martin
Chief Executive Officer

2.3 Auditor's Report:

Mr Frazer Sullivan, Director Corporate Services read the Opinion from the 2019 - 2020 Independent Auditor's Report.

Independent Auditors Report to the Councillors of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the annual financial report of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature or Type, Statement of Comprehensive Income by Program, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and Rate Setting Statement for the year then ended, as well as notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Statement by the Chief Executive Officer.

In my opinion the annual financial report of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale:

- (i) is based on proper accounts and records; and
- (ii) fairly represents, in all material respects, the results of the operations of the Shire for the year ended 30 June 2020 and its financial position at the end of that period in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, Australian Accounting Standards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, I report that:

- (i) In my opinion, the following material matter indicates a significant adverse trend in the financial position of the Shire:



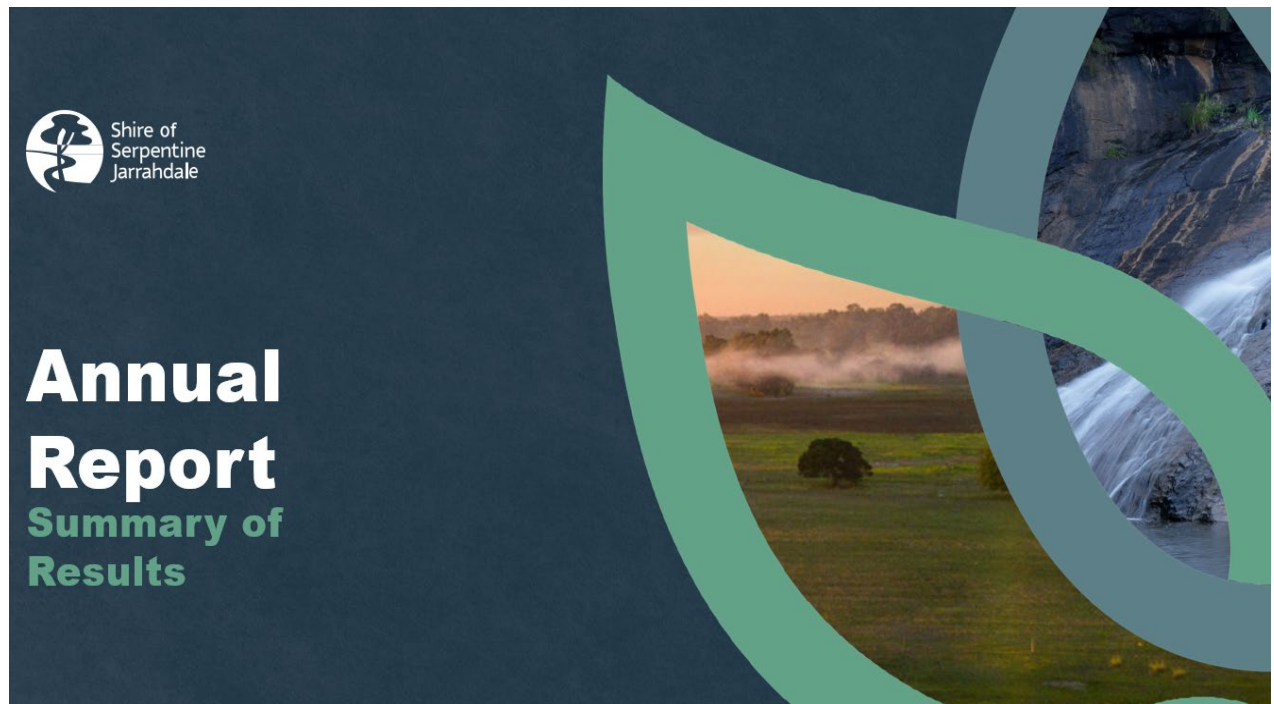
Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes Wednesday, 17 March 2021

- a. The Operating Surplus Ratio as reported in Note 34 of the annual financial report is below the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries basic standard for the past three financial years.
- (ii) All required information and explanations were obtained by me.
- (iii) All audit procedures were satisfactorily completed.
- (iv) In my opinion, the Asset Consumption Ratio and the Asset Renewal Funding Ratio included in the annual financial report were supported by verifiable information and reasonable assumptions.

Mark Ambrose
Senior Director Financial Audit

The Director Corporate Services explained the Annual Report – Summary of Results





Net Result

- The Shire's Net Profit Result for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$18,300,936 compared to the Net Profit Result for the year ended 30 June 2019 of \$12,064,650.
- This included recognition of gifted assets in the current year of \$12,695,958 compared to an amount of \$7,500,108 in the previous year.

Operating Results – Key Considerations

- Reduction in Cash Operating Expenditure (Excl. Depreciation) of \$551,637 or 1.89% over the past three financial years.

Whilst

- Maintaining \$32,925,666 (8.2%) additional fixed assets
- Servicing 861 (7.7%), additional rateable properties which have increased from 11,134 to 11,995 over the same period.



Financial Health Indicators

- The Financial Health Indicator is a measurement of a Local Government's overall financial health and is calculated based on allocating a score for each ratio against which all local governments are measured.
- The Shire's Financial Health Indicator Score for the year end 30 June 2020 is 72, which is consistent with last year's result and significantly better than the previous 3 years.

Financial Health Indicators

YEAR	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
FHI SCORE	72	72	60	66	64

- A Financial Health Indicator ("FHI") score of 70 is considered a benchmark for sound financial health.
- Below is a table comparing the FHI of all local governments in the Peel Region for the period ended 30 June 2019:

Local Government	FHI Score
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	72
Shire of Murray	66
Shire of Waroona	63
City of Mandurah	58
Shire of Boddington	55

Shire of
Serpentine
Jarrahdale



Audit Report

- The Shire's Audit report included a Significant Adverse Trend in relation to the Shire's Operating Surplus Ratio.
- The Shire's trend in relation to this ratio over the previous five years is as follows:

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Ratio	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.10)	0.00	(0.06)

- The Office of the Auditor General in its Audit Results Report for the local government industry in 2019 noted 106 ratios at 72 LG's indicated adverse trends, equivalent to 52% of the sector.



Future Focus

- The Operating Surplus ratios is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Operating surplus ratio} = \frac{\text{operating revenue minus operating expenses}}{\text{own source operating revenue}}$$

- As identified last year, and in line with the audit report Council needs to continue to focus on developing its own source revenue.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

The Shire President asked if there were any questions regarding the Shire President's report, the Chief Executive Officer's report or the Auditor's Report.

Ms Lisa Brazier, PO Box 80, Mundijong WA 6123

Question 1

Repayment of borrowing was \$3,502,133 versus budget \$769,000. Why did we pay down more? (page 68, 19(b)) Briggs Park \$2,974,000 short term loan. Where did the funds come from?

Response (Director Corporate Services)

It is a short-term facility and needs to be repaid and redrawn every 12 months. It is not a principal and interest loan as the project is not finished, and we are not sure what the actual total cost of the project will be. It will become a principal and interest loan once the project is complete.

Not more has been repaid than budgeted.

Question 2

Transport is \$2.3million over budget, what does this figure represent?

Response (Shire President)

This question will be taken on notice and a response provided.

Mr Tom Dyer

Question 1

What effect do you think the COVID-19 had on the annual budget?

Response (Director Corporate Services)

COVID-19 did not have a detrimental financial impact on the Shire. The Shire generated a surplus of in excess of \$3million, principally due to a reduction in services of the community, as we were forced to close many of our community facilities. Further, the Shire stopped recruiting staff from March. Approximately \$15,000 direct costs was incurred for Personal Protective Equipment, and IT mobility equipment to allow Officers to work from home.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

2.4 Receiving of Annual Report, incorporating Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2020

Copies of the Annual Report containing the Financial Report were available at the meeting and have been available for inspection on Council's website, and at the Administration Centre and the Mundijong Public Library.

GME070/03/21

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS RESOLUTION / Recommendation to Electors

Moved Mr Tom Hoyer, seconded Mr Tom Dyer

That the Annual Report for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for the year 2019 / 2020 incorporating the 2019 / 2020 Annual Financial Statements and the 2019 / 2020 Auditor's Report be RECEIVED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. General Business:

3.1 Public Questions of which prior notice has been given:

Nil.

3.2 Public Questions received from the floor:

Mrs Lee Bond, Box 44 Armadale WA 6112

Question 1

Which current councillors have completed and passed the Diploma of Local Government?

Response (Shire President)

This question will be taken on notice and a response provided.

Question 2

Why has Serpentine Jarrahdale Council used a delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia to perform the annual audit for 2020 instead of the regularly used Auditors of the Shire?

Response (Director Corporate Services)

A number of years ago the Local Government Act changed to mandate the Auditor General conduct Local Government Audits however the Auditor General did in fact contract the regular Auditors of the Shire to conduct the Annual Financial Audit of the Shire.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Question 3

What is the 11% interest on rate arrears and rate instalments used for as it is a considerable amount going into the Council? Where does the money go?

Response (Director Corporate Services)

These revenues go into consolidated revenues of the organisation and are applied to all of the expenses of the organisation as opposed to specific grant revenues that are applied to specific projects.

Mr Garry Tomlinson, 50 Jarrahglen Rise, Jarrahdale WA 6124

Question 1

Why won't the Shire cut down the trees in Millbrook under the phone lines?

Response (Chief Executive Officer)

We see this as a joint responsibility between Telstra and the Shire and are working with them to try and achieve an outcome. Representatives from the Shire recently met with Telstra to get clarity on responsibility and see if a way forward can be agreed. As a result of this meeting Telstra representatives were going to undertake a site inspection. The Telstra Regional Manager has agreed to meet again following this inspection with the Shire again to see if a joint solution can be achieved. I am happy to notify Mr Tomlinson of the outcome.

3.3 Public Statements of which prior notice has been given:

Nil.

3.4 Public Statements received from the floor:

Mrs Lee Bond, Box 44 Armadale WA 6112

Serpentine Jarrahdale shire council has deceived the Ratepayers over many things for many years and to top it off they have slammed the ratepayers with excessive unreasonable rates and rate increases. Then we have Councillor Strautins calling the ratepayers a mob of selfish people causing 400 people in the Shire to struggle to pay their mortgages. He also spouted stupid venom about how two pensioners in the same family get a double discount on their rates. That is a filthy lie designed to make those of us with properties look even more selfish because of his jealous, arrogant and purposely ignorant opinion of how wonderful he believes he is.

Many people have had to work very hard to be able to have their properties and they too have to pay mortgages. Many on UV rated properties had to provide their own bore water / rainwater/ wastewater sewerage treatment plant. Our electricity can be very high because everything operates on electricity, even the toilet requires electricity to flush it. These ratepayers are responsible for maintaining all pressure pumps, bore pumps, the treatment plant. What has the Council give us, nothing. We pay like everyone else to have our bins collected once a week. We ask for nothing. We don't ask for footpaths, streetlights, shops. Our electricity cost more



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

to connect to the house because of the distance from the road. There are many other matters we are responsible for on our properties, so stop with the stupid jealous rhetoric, Councillor Strautins and any other Councillors with similar opinions.

It's time all religious groups and schools paid rates in this Shire. When are you going to attack them Councillor Strautins!

Which Councillor will give up their sitting fee? I hear dead silence but then I would be in total shock if anyone was to take up my request.

A serious instability by Councillors intent on destroying any business in this Shire. If someone takes a dislike to them, a business has to stop.

The ratepayers of this Shire cannot afford to have legal cases mounted against them because of nonsense directions issued against people who want to do the right thing and the Shire says, lets wait till someone is injured, homes are destroyed or worse someone dies. This Shire needs to look at the repercussions of white any infested trees being protected by your environmental no nothings. As has been evident in this Shire, storms and strong winds have brought down very big trees, luck has prevailed but don't count on it always being that way. I will remove any dangerous tree from our property, and I won't be seeking Council permission. Give the ratepayers of this Shire the respect they deserve, many are tired of the nonsense.

Councillor Strautins

The Annual Report highlights the many achievements of the SJ Shire over the last financial year.

I am particularly pleased by the ongoing ERP style software rollout within the Shire offices of the Technology One IT integration, as it enables better management of data, to produce accurate information, that will enable more effective and efficient staff, to better inform and support residents in our community.

Addressing the Strategic Community Plan influenced by the Community Perceptions Survey:

1. Safety and Improvement of Roads being a top priority of residents is seeing outcome in the medium to long term because of the high cost of road improvements that cannot be paid for by rate payers. Funding for roads has to come from State and Federal funding, so much technically, and lobbying has been going on to gain the necessary funding. I agree with many residents that some upgrades have appeared a bit illogical and they have usually been as a result of black spot funding that forces particular upgrades ahead of other upgrades. But I am confident that lobbying for road funding has matured this financial year that started last financial and will be realised in the next financial year. Let's hope the next community comments about roads are to do with all the obstructions as a result of all the positive road works.
2. The community also expressed a desire for more playgrounds, parks and reserves with a specific request for more play equipment. I am confident that new housing developments are including adequate parks, reserves and play equipment but I feel the council needs to find a way to improve some of the older areas such as occurred with the opening of the Byford Bark Park.



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

A great underutilised asset to benefit all are the disjointed and disconnected bridle trails that the Council has this financial year started serious work towards correcting.

3. Public Transport improvement was the third highest priority expressed by the community and we know with the upcoming Byford Train Station the Shire is more than effectively addressing this. The soon to be built train station brings with it a need for accessibility planning so that residents are not forced to use cars to make use of the train station. We have a great opportunity to facilitate the use of electric bikes and scooters to free up car parking spaces for those that really need them. It is my intention to do the best I can to influence such outcomes so that the new Byford CBD around the new Byford Train Station is as functional as it can be.
4. Lastly streetscapes were the fourth highest priority communicated by residents and here I simply would like to clarify that it is the Progress Association full of volunteers raising money whom have done a wonderful job installing the statues in our Shire. The statues add to a sense of place, positively differentiate our Shire from other Council areas, and definitely improve our street scapes. I encourage similarly community minded persons to join the Progress Association.

The Shire's Vision is defined into the categories of People, Place, Prosperity, and Progressive.

Addressing the People objective, I am impressed with the amount of activities and events organised and delivered by the Community Services department. It would be ideal if we have more residents linked and connected via at least one of the Shire's mediums so that participation will increase, and greater warranted confidence in the Shire can be achieved.

As Chairman of the Access and Inclusion Committee I with the highly valued and competent committee members and staff are doing our best to have the most inclusive community possible.

Addressing the Place objective, I have been the Council's representative on Landcare and a committee member of Switch Your Thinking both working towards environmentally conscious pathways for the Shire. I am passionate about preserving and enhancing our peri-urban lifestyle.

Addressing the Prosperity objective, there is no doubt we have a lot of work to do in this area. Being registered as a Small Business Friendly Shire this financial year is a good start. I am thrilled that the Shire has a very competent Economic Development Officer in John O'Neil working on over \$1 Billion of business projects for the Shire. Personally, I am very pro-business and want to support business where possible but never at the expense of community. Businesses can always plan and work smarter than to railroad and sacrifice community.

I am pleased the Shire is engaging with innovative specialist organisations towards attracting such specialists to our Shire for the benefit of our residents.

I see a large opportunity for the Shire residents is with attracting a flow of people to the Shire from outside the Shire to contribute to activities and events in the Shire. We want our Shire to be a desired sought after location. We have such opportunities



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

for this via the new Byford CBD and the new Keirnan Park recreation precinct. I believe when we have such a vision then the plans follow and so does the state and federal funding to pay for them. From my experience the state and federal representatives like to engage with such vision, requiring infrastructure that will be popular with people. When we have such popular activity, it adds a positive optimistic environment for all residents and especially for our youth. I will continue seeking ways to attract TAFE and university departments to our Shire so as to add opportunity and optimism for our youth.

Going forward I am particularly interested in the upcoming new WALGA Act to replace the 1995 Act that will allow local Councils to gain income from sources other than rates. I see and have started on opportunities for the Shire to have a vision and plans for particular infrastructure delivering income to ease the rate burden off of residents.

Also going forward, I am excited at the increased options we have to gain funding from the state government.

3.5 Motions of which prior notice has been given:

Nil.

3.6 Motions received from the floor:

GME071/03/21

MOTION

**Moved Mr Garry Tomlinson, seconded Mrs Lee Bond
That Michelle Rich resign due to her lies and manipulation.**

MOTION LOST

GME072/03/21

MOTION

**Moved Mr Garry Tomlinson, seconded Mrs Lee Bond
That Dean Strautins resign due to his bullying and abuse of a 72-year-old ratepayer at a Shire Meeting.**

MOTION LOST



Continued

General Meeting of Electors - Minutes

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

GME073/03/21

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS RESOLUTION

Moved Mr Shaye Mack, seconded Mr Tom Hoyer

On the completion of the project, that the Shire Officers conduct a transparent inquiry into the management of the Abernethy Road upgrade and the budget blowouts, making all findings available to the public at the completion of the upgrade.

MOTION CARRIED

GME074/03/21

GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS RESOLUTION

Moved Mr Shaye Mack, seconded Mrs Lee Bond

To allow for questions from the floor at an Ordinary Council Meeting without prior written notice.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Closure:

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

The Shire President, Councillor Rich, invited everyone to join the Councillors and herself in the Council Dining Room for some light refreshments.

I certify that these minutes were received at the
Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 19 April 2021.

.....
Presiding Member – Councillor Rich

.....
Date