



SHIRE OF BOYUP BROOK

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ABEL STREET,
BOYUP BROOK ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM

MINUTES

1 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

1.1 Attendance

Cr M Giles – Shire President
Cr G Aird – Deputy Shire President
Cr N Blackburn
Cr J Imrie
Cr P Kaltenrieder
Cr K Moir
Cr B O'Hare
Cr T Oversby
Cr R Walker

Staff

Alan Lamb – Chief Executive Officer
Rob Staniforth Smith - Director Works and Services
Stephen Carstairs – Director of Corporate Services
Maria Lane – Executive Assistant

Public

Sue White
Dorothy Ricetti
Tony Doust
Sandy Chambers
Shirley Broadhurst
Derrick Seeber
Sharon Seeber
Iain Affleck
Deborah Chambers
Terence Ginnane
John Walsh
Susan Walsh
Jamie Mawer
Jodie Nield

1.2 Apologies

Peter and Catherine Bradford

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December 2013.

MOVED: Cr Kaltenrieder

SECONDED: Cr Aird

That the minutes of the annual meeting of electors held on 19th December 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried all

Res 18/15

3 RECEIVING OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

3.1 **Annual Report 2013/14**

MOVED: Cr Imrie

SECONDED: Cr Oversby

That the Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2014 as presented and made available previously to the public be received.

Carried all

Res 19/15

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Questions with Prior Notice as per Advertisement and Notices.

Mr Tony Doust

QUESTION

“Boyup Brook Swimming Pool – Proposed heating:-

I would like the Council to provide the electors of the Boyup Brook Shire with the following information prior to making any final decision to proceed with any proposal to heat the Boyup Brook Swimming Pool.

- A comparison between the total number of hours that the Pool is currently open to the public during the current financial year and the total number of hours for a full financial year that is proposed under the new arrangement if the heating of the Pool proceeds. A breakdown of these hours on a week by week basis to also be included.
- A detailed budget for the operation of the Swimming Pool including all costs and income as per the formal detailed schedule in the 2014/15 adopted budget (together with any approved changes) and a detailed comparison of these costs and income for a full year operation of any new proposal to heat the facility.”

RESPONSE

Council is working its way through expressions of interest regarding heating for the existing pool facility. The next step may be to call tenders. The call for expressions of interest will provide Council with the heating options available and an indication of cost to purchase and, more importantly, some information on the whole of life costs. The next phase will provide more firm costs to purchase and keep a heating system.

There is no intention to significantly change the current pool open season (November to March). Part of the funding arrangement with a community group is that the pool season is extended at a management level, to make the most of the heating and weather conditions, but the plan is that this would be achieved by closures at appropriate times

during the cooler months of the normal season. There is no anticipation of increased labour costs to achieve the earlier opening and later closing.

The project is funded a third by the community group, a third by Council and a third by the Department of Sport and Recreation. The first two sources of funds have been confirmed and the latter is subject to a successful application.

It is highly unlikely that Council will go ahead with the heating initiative if the annual cost burden of the improvements is prohibitive. It is expected that Council would provide non confidential information on costs and the like, that is used by it in its decision making process for the pool heating project.

Mr Terence Ginnane

QUESTION

Would you supply for the Elector's meeting an overview of the business performance of the Medical centre comparing the earlier years' profitability to recent deficits and reasons for any significant variance.

RESPONSE

The net of Medical Centre income and expenditure for completed financial years from 2005/6 to 2013/14 is as follows:

2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
70,535	528	11,113	56,225	6,353	2,805	2,523	-16,660	-85,661

It should be noted that the figures come from the audited annual accounts and have not been adjusted for comparison purposes. Care should always be taken when trying to compare financial data as changes in treatments and the like distort the figures. 2005/6 and 2006/7 do not include depreciation on the house or depreciation on the medical centre which is included all other years. 2005/6 and 2007/8 do not include Depreciation for the vehicle which is included all other years. 2005/06 and 2006/7 do not show superannuation as a separate account, could be included in salaries and wages or incorrectly shown in another area of the accounts. It appears that the years 2008/09 to 2013/14 can be compared without adjustment for changes in the treatment of expenditure. Similarly there is a need to adjust for extraordinary items in order to draw a true comparison. For example 2013/14 includes the payment for long service leave, a corresponding loss of income and an increase in employee costs (for the relief people).

The annual results have not been adjusted because the question relates to an over view and not a detailed analysis.

The figures show that the Medical Centre has ceased to make a profit and that it appears to be trending toward an annual subsidy. Council has been monitoring the financial performance of the Centre for some time now and engaged a consultant to analyse the operation, income and expenditure in some detail, then project the financial performance over a number of years to clearly indicate to Council what the ongoing position may be. The brief also included advice on changes that could be made to the operation, and the like, that could impact on future trends. The consultant has taken longer than had been hoped to complete their work but is now wrapping the project up and will report soon.

It would be premature at this stage to give any reasons for the change in the net operating position, because this is what the Consultant is establishing, however it is apparent that most of the Centre's income is Government controlled funds (Medicare, Health Department etc) which does not keep pace with cost increases. This will not be the sole factor but it is evident that it will be increasingly significant going forward.

Mrs Sue White

QUESTION

1. Does the Council have any funds set aside to take care of the graves of past residents who have no relatives?

Rationale: I have attended a number of funerals this year at the Boyup Brook Cemetery, and am much saddened to see the state of a number of the graves. One that comes to mind is that of Mrs. Fox (wife of James). They used to live on Area Road in Dinninup, and I know they had no offspring, and that John Beatty used to keep an eye on them. John Beatty and his family have now left the district and I don't feel should be held responsible for the upkeep of that particular grave since it is no blood relation.

RESPONSE

Council does not budget for the maintenance of the graves of past residents who have no relatives.

The Cemeteries Act clearly puts the obligation for maintenance of memorials (any fixture or thing commemorating the grave) on to the holder of the right of burial. Rights of burial (akin to a lease of a piece of land) are for 25 years and may be extended for up to an additional 25 years, on payment of the appropriate fee. There is no provision for an extension past the second 25 years.

Council maintains the cemetery grounds etc within its budgetary constraints. Currently, it costs \$17,000 to maintain the cemetery and the income is \$5,000.

QUESTION

2. Can Council insist that family members repair graves that have fallen into disrepair or charge them for having it done?

Rationale: There are some graves in the cemetery that have sunk and the lids are cracked, which does not look good for our community. There used to be a committee for the tidiness of the Cemetery known as "Friends of the Cemetery", but that seems to have disbanded. I know the Council were to install a tank for water up there, but I haven't seen any evidence of it? The particular grave I refer to is that of Mr. Jim Cumming – a well known long time resident who still has a son and grandson living in the district. I believe they have been approached in the past by the afore-mentioned committee, but to no avail.

RESPONSE

The Cemeteries Act provides that the holders of a right of burial can be required to do work. In the event that the right holder fails to do the work, the Shire Council may then do the work and seek to recover costs in court. Not all graves are the subject of a current right of burial. The legislation provides also that the Shire Council may preserve graves, memorials and records which, in its opinion, are of historical significance.

QUESTION

3. What is the current standing of the Expressions of Interest which have been requested for the heating of the swimming pool? Do you expect to hear results of the grant funding application to DSR in March?

RESPONSE

The time to lodge expressions of interest has closed (closed 5th February 2015). A report on the expressions lodged has been put to Council (19th February 2015) for a decision on the next step.

The Department of Sport and Recreation grant application, lodged last year to part fund the planned heating, is still with the Department. Announcements would have normally been made by this time but there is a new Minister and perhaps other factors, no announcements have been made as yet. It is not possible to estimate when the announcements might be made.

4.2 Public Question Time

4.3 Town appearance

Sue White congratulated the Shire's outside staff on the way in which the town was presented for the Country Music Club festival and asked that this be passed onto the relevant staff.

4.4 Australia Day Awards – Honour Board

Sue White asked if there was an honour board to record the names of Australia Day Award recipients

The Executive Assistant advised that these honour boards were located in the Council Chambers foyer.

4.5 Recycling services

Terry Ginnane noted that it was a shame that the recycling service had ceased and noted that the Shire had received awards for its efforts in this area and that it had been a leader in the field.

The CEO advised that the service was provided by the Lions and that it became unviable.

Cr Oversby added that the service relied heavily on Council subsidies and the efforts of volunteers. He noted that Rex Lee Steere had for many years transported collected materials to Perth, to be sold, in his own truck at his own cost. When he could no longer provide this contribution to the Lions, the cost of transport became a significant factor.

4.6 Recycling services

Jodie Nield suggested that the financial impact of dealing with a higher volume of rubbish now that recycling had ceased, might be in line with costs for continuing the service.

The CEO outlined the new services that will come from a regional approach that Council had embraced. Broad information on the new services had been communicated to the community on a number of occasions but the detail (including the annual charge for new collection services) was yet to be fully developed. That the plan was to put the detail of the new services to the community later in the year, include the details in the next budget, with the intention to commence the services in 2015/16.

4.7 Industrial Land

Derrick Seeber asked about works being done at the Saleyards and about rumours that part of the yards would be used as an industrial area.

The Shire President advised that the works being done related to a Country Local Government Fund funded project to improve the wash down facility and make the area more secure. The aim was that users would pay for their use and that the ongoing operation would be cost neutral.

The President advised that Council had, for some time, been looking at sites for an industrial park. In recent times Council decided to direct budgeted funds to evaluate the opportunity of using a portion of the saleyards. The saleyards had not been well used for some years and the yards infrastructure did not meet current OH&S requirements, and so posed a liability concern.

4.8 Industrial Parks

Sandy Chambers mentioned that most industrial parks appear to house retail businesses that sell imported products and there is little manufacturing.

4.9 Wildfire Mitigation

Iain Affleck asked if the Council had made contact with relevant government agencies regarding fuel load reduction burns on Government land in the Shire. Also if Council would push for WALGA to put pressure on relevant agencies to get on with a program of preventative burns.

The President advised that he had spoken with Hon Terry Redman, Local Member, on the matter and that Terry was fully aware of the need for preventative burns. The President also advised that the push for more action on preventative burns would be taken up with WALGA.

4.10 Rural Numbering

Derrick Seeber noted that he had no rural number and so was not receiving a mail service.

The Director of Works and Services (DWS) advised that he should complete the relevant form at the Shire Office front counter, with relevant detail of the property etc, and then he would investigate the matter and get back to him.

4.11 New Signage in Shire

Sue White congratulated the DWS on the new signage in the Shire.

5 CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 7.57pm.