



Minutes of the Special Meeting of Electors held in the Boyup Brook Town Hall, Abel Street, Boyup Brook at 7.00pm on Thursday 18 October 2018.

**1 OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Shire President Cr Graham Aird, welcomed Ratepayers and Electors of the Shire of Boyup Brook and opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

**2 PRESENT**

Shire President - Cr G Aird

**COUNCILLORS**

**WARD**

Cr R Walker	Benjinup
Cr S Alexander	Boyup Brook
Cr P Kaltenrieder	Boyup Brook
Cr K Moir	Benjinup
Cr E Muncey	Boyup Brook
Cr H O'Connell	Scotts Brook
Cr T Oversby	Dinninup
Cr L Rear	Dinninup

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr A Lamb	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs M Lane	Executive Assistant

**At the commencement of the meeting there were 135 electors of the Shire of Boyup Brook and 15 non-electors.**

### **3 BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS**

The following notice was advertised in the West Australian newspaper on Wednesday 3 October 2018 and the Manjimup Bridgetown Times on Wednesday 3 October 2018 in addition to being displayed on the public notice board at the Shire of Boyup Brook and on the shire website.

The notice read:

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS will be held in the Boyup Brook Town Hall, Abel Street Boyup Brook on Thursday, 18th October 2018 commencing at 7.00pm.

This meeting has been called in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.28 of the Local Government Act 1995.

The purpose of the meeting is to address residents/electors concerns about deterioration of core Boyup Brook infrastructure, and specifically:

- Expenditure on road maintenance.
- Boyup Brook Recreation Ground.
- Boyup Brook Swimming Pool opening times and operating cost.
- Employee salaries and wages annual increases in costs.
- The Multi-Function Community Hub proposed in the 2018/19 budget.

**Alan Lamb**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **4.1 Mr Tony Doust, Boyup Brook on behalf of the ratepayers who signed the petition**

Explain why the expenditure on road maintenance grading decreased from \$530,340 in the 2014/15 adopted budget to \$275,646 in 2015/16 Budget, decreased further in the next two budgets and is now \$279,605 in the 2018/19 adopted budget. It is very apparent from the condition of our gravel roads that the impact is significant and our roads are deteriorating at an alarming rate.

#### **Response**

*In 2014/15 Council moved to place more emphases on winter grading, which includes bringing in material, reforming and compacting roads, than on summer grades. So whilst the 2014/15 budget provided for \$530,340 for maintenance grading (Account 122107), actual costs in that year were split between winter grading and summer grading. Summer grading cost \$155,833 and winter grading \$251,290 in that year.*

In 2015/16, Council budgeted \$333,705 for winter grading and \$275,646 for summer grading. The 2018/19 budget provides for expenditure of \$286,000 on winter grading and \$279,605 for summer grading. A total of \$565,605 or an increase over 2014/15 of some 7%.

The following schedule shows budgeted and actual expenditure:

Description	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Municipal funded gravel sheeting	165,395	144,204	38,850	43,069	104,875	83,796	110,000	102,586	113,300
Municipal funded winter grading	0	251,290	333,705	318,844	333,705	261,498	300,000	323,144	286,000
Municipal funded grading	530,340	155,833	275,646	166,004	160,495	189,329	245,340	212,683	279,605
Total	695,735	551,327	648,201	527,917	599,075	534,623	655,340	638,413	678,905

**MOTION 1 - Mr S Jackson, Boyup Brook**

**MOVED: Mr S Jackson**

**SECONDED: Mr T Doust**

1. That this meeting recommends to the Council that Policy W.05 "Grading" originally adopted in June 2004 and included in the current Policy Manual (updated on the 17th November 2017) and published on the Shire Web Site, be fully complied with and implemented to ensure the Shire road system is maintained at an acceptable standard.
2. Any variation to the implementation of the works as outlined in the policy by the Chief Executive Officer or other delegated officers be only with specific approval of the Council made at a formal Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**4.2 Mr Tony Doust, Boyup Brook on behalf of the ratepayers who signed the petition**

Provide reasons as to why the Council will not accept it responsibility and meet the full cost to maintain the Boyup Brook Recreation Ground surface at a standard that has been provided in the past and initiate immediate action to improve the facility to an acceptable standard. A review of the expenditure on this facility reveals very little has occurred during the past 10 years other than watering, mowing & fertilizing

## **Response**

*Council has continued to maintain recreation facilities, including all grassed areas, and make improvements when and where possible and meets the full cost. It is understood that the main thrust of this question relates to the football/cricket oval and so the response is made with this understanding.*

*In 2008/9, Council took the opportunity of Federal Grant funding to upgrade the oval reticulation system (\$35,837.56). Similarly, in 2009/10 \$25,199.74 was spent making improvements to drainage around the oval. Our ledgers show that in the order of \$30,000 has been spent on the oval annually from 2012/13 to 2016/17. In 2016/17 expenditure increased to just under \$40,000 and in 17/18 it dropped to \$15,000. This reduction in costs resulted from operational matters (for example annual verti mowing not carried out, accounts for \$8,000 of the variance incidentally this in an operation not mentioned in the question) and expenditure in 2018/19 is expected to be higher as a consequence.*

*There has been no Council directive to reduce costs of oval maintenance and staff continue to take pride in maintaining this, and all other, community use facility. Shire staff are continuing to look to making improvements as and where possible. To this end, a consultant has inspected the oval, with a view to making recommendations. I expect that once received we will receive Shire officer recommendations for consideration in future budgets.*

*Council has been working with sporting groups on the formation of a local association. This association has been formed as an incorporated body and we hope to see its considered priorities for future works come forward through due process.*

### **MOTION 2 - Mr T Doust, Boyup Brook**

**MOVED: Mr T Doust**

**SECONDED: Mr P Harvey**

- 1. That this meeting recommends to the Council that it accepts full responsibility for the upgrading and maintenance of the Boyup Brook Recreation Ground (oval) playing surface and undertakes the work required to improve the facility with funding from reserves or by raising a loan.**

**CARRIED**

### **4.3 Mr Tony Doust, Boyup Brook on behalf of the ratepayers who signed the petition**

Explain why there was not any public advertising inviting community comment on the proposed changes to the opening hours/extension of the swimming season for the use of the Boyup Brook Swimming Pool, including advising the general public of the anticipated additional annual operating costs for this facility that have risen from \$212,204 in the 2015/16 Budget to a projection of \$301,900 in the 2018/19 adopted budget.

## Response

Part of the agreement in relation to the community contribution (Swimming Club) toward pool heating was that Council would seek to extend the pool season. Various bodies who use the pool on a regular basis (schools, Swimming Club, and the like) were contacted for input into the pool opening times. Officers reported on the results of this consultation, a draft schedule of opening hours and estimated employee costs. The extended hours were referred to the budget process and then set as part of that process.

Budget estimates of pool operating costs from 2014/15 to 2018/19 were as follows:

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
\$265,215	\$212,204	\$235,471	\$270,695	\$301,900

## MOTION 3 - Mr T Doust, Boyup Brook

**MOVED: Mr T Doust**

**SECONDED: Mr S Jackson**

**This meeting recommends to Council that there be no further changes to the opening hours and period of opening (length of season) of the Boyup Brook Swimming Pool (as implemented in the current financial year) without prior consultation with the community through public advertising, including projected costs involved, and inviting feedback on the proposal.**

**CARRIED**

## 4.4 Mr Tony Doust, Boyup Brook on behalf of the ratepayers who signed the petition

Provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for the substantial increase (adopted budgets) for employee salaries & wages, \$610,030 (26 %), during the period pt July 2014 to 30th June 2018 and any new positions created during this time. The estimated cost in the 2014/15 year was \$2,328,525 and this increased to \$2,938,555 in 2017/18 adopted budget. The cost of the current year for some reason has been omitted from the schedules provided to Tony Doust prior to the adoption of the current budget. The increase in this cost is well above the general wage increases and inflation during this period.

## Response

*A fully funded position was created, in April 2016, as part of the bushfire risk planning initiative. The salaries and wages component of costs for this accounted for \$243,000 of the noted increase.*

*Two administration positions were created during the period. One at the depot commenced December 2015 as a part time position. Hours were increased over time and now it is a full time position. This allowed a member of the works team to spend more hours on works and, at times, covered for Technical Officer position (created in March 2013) which was not filled at all times*

*during the period. The other administration position commenced March 2017 as a 0.4 FTE, in 2017/18 this was increased to an 0.8 FTE. Together these account for \$154,000 of the increase.*

*Adjusting the highlighted increase of \$610,030 for the State Government funded position, the unexplained increase is \$367,030 or 15.76%. This equates to an increase of 3.94% per year. Further, adjusting the \$367,030 for the explained administration staff positions (\$154,000), the remainder is \$213,030 or 9.14% (equates to 2.29% per year).*

*Medical centre salaries and wages accounted for just under \$120,000 of the increase. In part, this results from the practice of most Doctors income being based on a percentage of fees, plus the need to retain GPs in town. In the same period, income increased by more than \$180,000.*

#### **MOTION 4 - Mr T Doust, Boyup Brook**

**MOVED: Mr T Doust**

**SECONDED: Mr T Ginnane**

**This meeting informs the Council that we are concerned about the significant increase in Employees' Salaries/Wages/Costs during the past (4) years, which are well above general employment increases during this period and recommends that an independent review of the Shire operation be undertaken to ensure that the outcomes and services required from the positions created are being achieved at an acceptable cost.**

**CARRIED**

#### **4.5 Mr Tony Doust, Boyup Brook on behalf of the ratepayers who signed the petition**

The 2018/19 adopted Budget includes provision for capital expenditure to provide a "Multi- function Community Hub". We request that information and explanations be provided on why this facility is needed, the organizations that will use the building, what level of public consultation was taken prior to making the decision to proceed, the level of Shire funding (not grants) required for the capital cost and the projected ongoing annual shire costs for the operation of the facility when completed.

#### **Response**

*Council has been working with the Craft Group for some time on an opportunity to rehouse it to free up the two residential sized lots, its aging building sits on, for other community needs (affordable housing is one option having been identified as being highly sought after in the region). More recently it has become apparent that there are other groups who also will need to be rehoused, and that grant funding is available for collocation facilities.*

*It was originally planned, some years ago now, that the Craft Group would be relocated to the flax mill area. But a year ago, or so, it was seen that this was not the best location and that funding for a single user facility may not be available. In drafting the current budget, provision was made for a multi use community group facility (Multi Function Community Hub). This involved an investment of \$175,000 of Shire Reserve funds, plus a loan of \$175,000 and a community contribution of \$175,000 (envisaged to be by way of a self supporting loan), and grant funding of \$525,000.*

*Recently Council revisited this budget provision and moved its own resources funding to facilitate the purchase and development of the saleyards lot.*

*Community groups are currently using old structures or have no "house" and the hub project is aimed at ensuring all groups have adequate facilities, now and into the future, and the Shire is not left with costs associated with maintaining old structures. The plan now is to further engage with the relevant groups, gather sufficient detail on each groups needs to commence the feasibility phase and the current budget provides some funds (\$5,000) to progress this. Work done so far on long term planning includes being in a position to seek grants in 2019/20 and building works in 2020/21.*

**MOTION 5 - Mr T Ginnane, Boyup Brook**

**MOVED: Mr T Ginnane**

**SECONDED: Mr T Doust**

**This meeting requests the Council that prior to proceeding with any significant improvements/changes to any existing buildings and any proposed new buildings or structures at an estimated cost in excess of \$400,000, inform the community through public advertising of the capital cost and the level of shire contribution, projected ongoing yearly operating cost and revenue to be received and invite comments.**

**CARRIED**

**5 CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss, the Shire President, Cr G Aird declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm.