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General Electors Meeting Minutes

Shire of Pingelly

General Electors Meeting

Wednesday 22 January 2025

7:00 pm

Please note that public questions and answers have been summarised.

Pingelly, positive by nature, let's grow together!

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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME INFORMATION

The Shire of Pingelly welcomes community participation during public question time. This document is to be read in conjunction with the *Shire of Pingelly Standing Orders Local Law 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

1. A member of the public who raises a question during question time must:
 - a. be in attendance at the meeting;
 - b. first state their name and address;
 - c. direct the question to the Presiding Member;
 - d. ask the question briefly and concisely;
 - e. limit any preamble to matters directly relevant to the question; and
 - f. ensure that the question is not accompanied by any expression of opinion, statement of fact or other comment, except where necessary to explain the question.
2. Each member of the public with a question is entitled to ask up to 3 questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions.
3. Where a member of the public seeks a written response to their questions to be tabled at a meeting, the member of the public must submit their questions to Council by no later than 12 noon on the day prior to the meeting date of which the response is to be tabled.
4. Where a member of the public submits their questions after 12 noon on the day prior to the meeting date of which the response is to be tabled, a written response may be provided at the discretion of the presiding member.
5. Where a member of the public submits a written question after 12 noon the day prior to the meeting at which they are to be tabled, a verbal response may be provided at the meeting.
6. A member of the public may ask questions without notice at a meeting, provided they present a written copy of their questions to Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Questions may be submitted by e-mail to admin@pingelly.wa.gov.au.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.07pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Willman Noongar people of this area and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Members Present

Cr J McBurney	President
Cr P Wood	Deputy President
Cr B Hotham	
Cr K Singh	
Cr A Trethewey	

Staff in Attendance

Mr A Dover	Chief Executive Officer
Mr M Hudson	Executive Manager Works
Ms Z Macdonald	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Mrs S Nyssen	Governance and Executive Officer

Apologies

Cr C Cheney

President kindly reminds public attendees to fill in the attendance sheet.

Members of the Public

Lou Johnson	Helen Dennerley	S Smith
Lee Steel	Merv Beard	Rene Vitos
Evan Hodges	Robert Howell	Elizabeth Tetlow
Christine Goldsmith	Karen Howell	David Freebairn
Anne Goldsmith	Jane McCabe	
Leona Ebsworth	Nick McCabe	

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting - 31 January 2024

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meetings are to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

13517 Cr Karmvir Singh moved, Cr Bryan Hotham seconded

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority required

Recommendation & Council Decision:

That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 31 January 2024 be confirmed.

Carried Unanimously 5 votes to 0

For:	President Jackie McBurney, Deputy Peter Wood, Cr Bryan Hotham, Cr Karmvir Singh and Cr Angela Tretheway
Against:	Nil

4.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting - 16 December 2024

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meetings are to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

13518 Cr Angela Trethewey moved, Cr Bryan Hotham seconded

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority required

Recommendation & Council Decision:

That the Minutes of the Special Electors Meeting of the Council of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 16 December 2024 be confirmed.

Carried Unanimously 5 votes to 0

For:	President Jackie McBurney, Deputy Peter Wood, Cr Bryan Hotham, Cr Karmvir Singh and Cr Angela Tretheway
Against:	Nil

5 ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

The Shire President to call for questions on the Annual Report, including the Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report.

President welcomes Mr Ron Obrien to the podium.

Ron Obrien presents to the Podium. It is explained that he has already received the answers to his questions however would like to share this information with rate payers.

Ron Obrien:

Q1: What is the current level of debt for the Shire?

R: As of 30 June 2024, the outstanding loan principal is \$1,766,522 (page 34 of the annual report). The figure differs from the budget due to a loan payment scheduled for Monday instead of Friday, 28 June.

Q2: It was difficult to determine whether the figures on pages 7 and 14 represent a surplus or a deficit. Can you clarify?

R: The reported amount as of 30 June was a surplus of \$2,097,759. This is shown on page 7 of the annual report.

Q3: Regarding page 36—what is the \$40,000 allocated to the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network used for? Which roads does it service, and how many groups are involved?

R: The \$40,000 is retained from a previously levied rate for the Secondary Freight Network, pending federal funding. The network includes three key roads: Alderside Road, Wandering-Pingelly Road, and Wickepin-Pingelly Road.

A \$165,000 grant has been received for the development of the intersection at Pingelly-Wandering Road. The required Shire contribution is uncertain, as the federal and state funding situation remains unresolved. In the initial rollout of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network, other Local Governments have contributed 7%.

Q4: What proportion of rates revenue comes from GRV (Gross Rental Value) and UV (Unimproved Value) properties?

R: GRV properties (typically town properties) contribute 33%, while UV properties (primarily farmland) contribute 66% of rates revenue. This is within expectations.

Q5: The Independent Auditor's Report mentions the term "misstated." What does this refer to?

R: The term relates to the auditor's responsibility to ensure there are no material misstatements. The Shire received a clean audit with no findings or recommendations.

13519 Cr Peter Wood moved, Cr Bryan Hotham seconded

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority required

Recommendation & Council Decision:

That the Annual Report, inclusive of the Shire Presidents Report, Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report of the Shire of Pingelly for the year ending 30 June 2024, be received.

Carried Unanimously 5 votes to 0

For:	President Jackie McBurney, Deputy Peter Wood, Cr Bryan Hotham, Cr Karmvir Singh and Cr Angela Tretheway
Against:	Nil

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Shire President to call for any questions from Electors concerning matters under the jurisdiction of the Shire of Pingelly.

In order of which questions were received, the Shire President asks Barry Hastings to attend the Podium.

Barry Hastings:

Q6: Will the Council install culverts north of the Bullaring Road T-junction on Wickepin Road, as well as on Pauley's Road, to address water damage caused by previous roadworks? Will culverts be included in new works on Wickepin-Pingelly Road?

R: Both roads will be reconstructed as part of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network. This will include the identification of culvert locations by a waterway engineer in the design phase and installation of the required culverts.

Q7: When will the works be completed?

R: Works will begin with Wandering-Pingelly Road before moving to Wickpin-Pingelly Road. The project must meet Federal Government standards for width and depth to secure funding. No specific completion date is available from the Federal Government.

Q8: Why are stop-and-go lights in use during holiday periods when no work is taking place? They seem to be causing road corrugation.

R: Speeding drivers have caused corrugations in other locations. Speed signs alone have proved ineffective. As a result, the Shire has activated the traffic lights to improve safety and protect the road surface during the Christmas break. However, some motorists continue to ignore both signs and lights, creating hazards and additional repair costs.

Q9: Can Council spray the wattle suckers growing along Bullaring Road?

R: A contractor has been engaged, and spraying will commence within two weeks. This is similar to last year.

Lee Steel:

Q10: Does the Shire have a policy on AI use by staff and councillors? If not, will it consider adopting one?

R: The use of AI is new and has not yet been discussed, but it can be considered in the future.

Q11: Could I be kept up to date if the shire does adopt a policy on AI?

R: That policy would be made public.

Q12: Who created the brief for the Safe Road Home project, how many applications have been received, and why was the windmill from the Pingelly Men's Shed not considered not 'arty' enough for inclusion?

R: The CEO wrote the original brief. Two applications were received, but one withdrew their application as they misunderstood what the brief was about. The feedback provided to the Men's Shed was that the windmill should fit within one of the briefs or be adapted to align with the project's theme. The story must be engaging and relevant to Pingelly. It was not considered unsuitable for inclusion.

Q13: Given community concerns about potential contamination of the mRNA vaccine, why didn't the Council consider alternative solutions?

R: The Council addressed a specific question asked by electors and Council made a decision. If other requests or questions were raised, there may be a different answer.

Q14: Did the Council discuss alternative ways to assist the community with vaccine concerns?

R: No, it was not considered.

Q15: What is the update on Pitt Street between Quadrant and Parade Street maintenance, as previously mentioned in the 2024 General Electors Meeting? The Response in 2024 was that there is a plan being designed.

R: The road strategy is being updated. Initially 'prominent' community members with relevant experience will help prioritise roads for funding before being put to the wider community. This initial consultation was deliberately timed until after the harvest and holiday period will begin in early February. Following consultation, the plan will be presented to Council.

Q16: What is meant by a "prominent person" in Pingelly for road planning input?

R: Prominent is not the word that I would use, however, it would refer to individuals with knowledge of the road network, such as former Councillors or those with relevant experience, particularly farmers. A network of contributors will provide input before broader community consultation.

Q17: We have waited a year for the Roads Strategy and we are still waiting for this to be completed. Are works are being completed during this period?

R: Yes, work on the Roads Strategy is ongoing, guided by internal expertise and strict road funding criteria.

Q18: Town roads have deteriorated over decades. When will they be addressed as they are deuterating rapidly?

R: There are several factors to fairly allocate the funding in the best way possible to fit the needs of the community, including community priorities, road conditions, available funding, and usage, determine road maintenance. Town roads will be included in the overall strategy. Roads are categorised into rural sealed, rural unsealed, and town works.

Q19: Original Question asked in 2024 General Electors Meeting, can Council advise if there is a line item in the budget for the continued support of the PRACC?

R: Yes, funding was allocated this year. Future funding depends on the next budget, and a report on PRACC funding is in progress.

Q 20: Original Question asked in 2024 General Electors Meeting, what is the progress on funding for the Art and Heritage Precinct and when work is expected to commence.

R: Unfortunately, the funding applications that we have submitted to date have not been successful. As it was made aware of at the very beginning, this project requires grant funding to be successful. We are continuing to source, seek and apply for funding. As soon as funding is made available work will commence.

Q21: When will Council look at an alternative strategy if funding isn't available? How long will you wait?

R: If funding cannot be secured, an alternative strategy will be discussed by the Council, but no timeframe has been set. This project requires grant funding to proceed.

Anne Goldsmith

Q22: Regarding the elector's motion on 19 December 2024 about potential mRNA vaccine contamination—if reputational risk was the reason for not supporting the motion, what can the Council do to confirm whether the vaccine was contaminated? Could you write to the Department of Health for clarification?

R: The Council can certainly consider this request. Council may write to the Department of Health on behalf of our electors seeking clarification. The President will discuss the matter with Councillors and the CEO.

Lou Johnson

Q23: Do you agree that the most important stakeholder group for local government is the local community, including electors, residents, and ratepayers? Further, do you agree that in order for a community to be strong, prosperous, cohesive and resilient community, that the good reputation of the local government body with the electors they have committed to represent and serve should be of highest priority to that local government body?

R: I couldn't agree more. The local community and ratepayers are our top priority. Maintaining a good reputation is crucial, not only with our community but also with external bodies, as this helps secure grants and funding. However, our utmost priority remains serving our community.

Jane McCabe:

Q24: Does the Shire have a policy on the use of recyclable materials?

R: No, there is no policy on recycling.

Q25: \$30,000 was spent on non-recyclable materials like tinsel, lights, and Christmas decorations for the Christmas Village. Did Councillors review this budget, as noted in the General Electors Meeting minutes from 31 January 2024?

R: Yes, a review was conducted, and the findings are available in the Council meeting minutes.

Q26: Was the review specifically about whether another \$30,000 was spent in 2023/24, similar to 2022/23?

R: Yes, the review assessed the value for money and the benefit to the community. Council decided to allocate a similar amount for 2024/25.

Q27: Given the amount of money spent on plastic decorations that degrade in high heat, is this a good use of funds? Could the Council reconsider its spending on plastic for Christmas decorations?

R: Many decorations are reused, but the concern about plastic will be taken into account. The Christmas Village received overwhelmingly positive feedback, making it a success. However, the use of plastics will be reconsidered before next year's decorations are planned.

Elizabeth Tutlow

Q28: Does the Shire keep records of the number of graves dug each month over the past five years to assess the effectiveness of vaccines in preventing deaths?

R: The Shire does keep records of burials but not causes of death. The CEO will retrieve the burial numbers and provide the information as requested.

Q29: How often is a census conducted? The last one was in 2021.

R: The census is conducted by the state every five years. The Shire does not control the timing.

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Australia Day celebrations with us this Sunday. Thank you for your attendance.

<p>These minutes were confirmed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on</p> <p>Signed..... Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.</p>
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26 February 2025

Ms Elizabeth Teltow
[REDACTED]
PINGELLY WA 6308

Dear Ms Elizabeth Tetlow

Annual Electors Meeting 22/01/2025 – Question Taken on Notice

Thank you for attending the Annual Electors Meeting held at the Shire of Pingelly Council Chambers on Wednesday 22 January 2025. At this meeting you requested the numbers of graves dug each month over the past five years.

The Shire of Pingelly has compiled the following burial records for your reference. Please kindly note that this does not include interment of ashes into graves or niche wall.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January		1			2
February	1	3			
March					1
April		1		2	2
May	1	2	1	2	1
June		2	1	1	
July	1	2	2		
August	1				
September	2	1			2
October		1	1		
November			2	1	
December	3	1	1	2	2
Total	9	14	8	8	10

Should you require further assistance with this matter, please contact Mrs. Storm Nyssen, Governance and Executive Officer on (08) 9887 1066 or storm.nyssen@pingelly.wa.gov.au

Yours faithfully



Andrew Dover
Chief Executive Officer