



General Elector's Meeting Minutes

Shire of Pingelly

6 February 2023

Please note that questions and responses may be summarised within these Minutes. Every effort to retain the accuracy of the questions and responses has been made.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.01pm.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/ APOLOGIES/ APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cr W Mulroney (President)
Cr J McBurney (Deputy President)
Cr B Hotham
Cr P Narducci
Cr P Wood
Cr A Oliveri
Cr K Singh

APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE / APOLOGIES?

Mr Ray Marshall
Ms Michelle Waltan-Hassell

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

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

GUESTS

Mr Ron O'Brien
Ms Lee Steel
Mr Evan Hodges
Ms Anne Goldsmith
Mr David Freebairn
Mr Allan Lansdell
Ms Elizabeth Trump
Ms Jenni Borg
Ms Barbara Wallace

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 General Electors Meeting – 16 February 2022

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.

Voting Requirements:

Absolute Majority

Recommendation and Council Decision:

That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 16 February 2022 be confirmed.

Mr Freebairn

Q1: Why was there no minutes of the previous meeting, no annual report and no advertisement on the meeting?

Response: The Shire President responded that the reports had been out for over a week, as per the nominated time. The CEO explained it had been advertised in the Narrogin Observer, the Pingelly Times, and Facebook.

Mr O'Brien

Q2: Was the legal requirements of advertising the Electors Meeting met, as Mr O'Brien was unaware of the meeting until this morning.

Response: The Shire President replied that the only opportunity to advertise in the Local paper is the week before Christmas and the week that school goes back after Christmas, because of the Christmas break. The legal requirement of advertising the meeting have been met.

Mr Freebairn:

Q3: In which Pingelly Times was it advertised.

Response: It was in the latest Shire News in the latest Pingelly Times.

Ms Steel:

Q4: Where in the Shire News?

Response: It was on the panel to the side below the Council Meetings.

Q5: That's not advertising, it was hidden. Referred to the same problems of last year's meetings. Doesn't believe the Narrogin Observer is appropriate choice of advertising.

Response: It was also on Facebook and the Notice Board.

Q6: Posting on Facebook 3 weeks ago is not advertising. We are telling you we did not know the meeting was on. You had lots of time to advertise. When was the meeting set?

Response: It was set on the 12th of December. The President stated that he takes the comments *on board* for the future and that the minutes and the Annual report are prepared before Christmas and are available on request.

Q7: It wasn't on the website and it wasn't in the news events. It wasn't advertised anywhere so how would people know? Why was it not on the front page on the website?

Response: The CEO responded that the Annual Report has been on the website, the Council Meetings haven't been uploaded as yet. The president replied that all the concerns have been taken on board. Asked the Executive to make a note of it.

13241 Moved: Cr Oliveri

Seconded: Cr McBurney

CARRIED 7:0

5. ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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

Recommendation and 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 2022, be received.

The Shire President called for questions on the Annual Report, including the Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report. The following summary of the questions and responses is provided:

13242 Moved: Cr Narducci Seconded: Cr McBurney

CARRIED 7:0

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Shire President called for any questions from Electors concerning matters under the jurisdiction of the Shire of Pingelly. The following summary of the questions and responses is provided:

Ms Steel

Q8: Why was the rate payers annual meeting a secret? What was the rationale for this? Is there no desire from councillors to advertise so the community can attend? What are Councillors hiding? Do Councillors feel ashamed for not respecting rate payers and by not ensuring proper advertising? Did Councillors believe 1 post on Facebook is enough? Why was the meeting not listed on your website as an event?

Response: This is not a secret meeting. It was advertised a month in advance followed up by 3 other notifications in an advertisement in a registered paper. We would like more comment and feedback from the community. For next year, as soon as it is announced in the December meeting, it will be advertised before the end of the year. We will make sure the annual reports and all the minutes are printed out and available to the members who require them.

Mr O'Brien

Q9: The operating surplus. Why is it a problem here? Where are we heading? What's going on? What's likely to be the new way of accessing?

Response: It has been determined by the State Government that these ratios are not a suitable measure and have removed them. They have not been replaced. A better measure is to examine the audited reports for a more detailed analysis on the operating surplus as the comparison of different local governments cannot be boiled down to 1 or 5 different numbers in isolation.

Q10: So where are we at now? Is it a government issue?

Response: Yes, it is a government issue as they initially set and then removed the ratios as measures. They have not been replaced as it is difficult to capture all of what the local government does in just a few numbers. It also is not necessary as the local government's accounts are audited to ensure the local government is operating sustainably.

The auditor general is the government body that provides the guidelines which gives us the accounting standards and reporting function that we must provide and file it. They make recommendations and we comply with their recommendations. They do change from year to year. Since removing the ratios, they haven't offered another alternative.

Ms Steel

Q11: Why did council choose to keep the request to public comment on the Pingelly Youth Precinct a secret? Did the Councillors even care that the only clue that councillors seeking public comment was found on a link referring to the youth strategy 2021-25, where an existing

story posted year 2021 was added to at the bottom noting that Pingelly Youth Precinct and stating “following the adoption of the youth strategy and consideration via the youth network council resolve to advertise the Pingelly Youth Precinct for feedback including the relocation of the child care facility to the old bowling club. This advertising is currently ongoing and primarily only through direct consultation with stakeholders.

Response: At the December Council Meeting, Council adopted the Youth Precinct Concept Plan, for the purposes of consultation. We have added that to the website under ongoing projects, or planned projects, For the purposes of that consultation, consultation has not yet commenced.

Q12: Why does it state that it closes on the 6th of February, which is today?

Response: There was an error on the website. This consultation hasn't been carried out yet. The Shire intended to carry out consultation earlier but has not commenced it yet.

Q13: So you will fix that and change the records?

Response: Yes.

Q14: Who are the key stakeholders and how and when will you seek their feedback?

Response: The key stakeholders include the Youth Advisory Network; organised by Council; and incorporates many of the police; the school; Moorditj Youth; and have identified the youth themselves as the primary key stake holders. The Shire is in the process of workshoping through who those key stakeholders are. The Shire will directly contact the key stakeholders. The overall strategy for that consultation is that direct engagement because we want to find out accurately from those young people what their ideas are, what their plans are, and if it suites them. This includes direct contact to hear back from them. The Shire also wishes to reassure you that this will also be put out to the general community.

Mr Hodges

Q15: How are you going to do that?

Response: A survey.

Q16: Will this be in the paper?

Response: The survey will be included in the Pingelly Times as well as online.

Ms Steel

Q17: Why is the shire hiding the redevelopment behind the *guise* of a youth precinct? Are more playgrounds driven by council by desire to attract more tourists?

Response: The Youth Strategy identifies a skate park as a key component for tackling disengaged youth. The recently redeveloped Memorial Park that we developed caters for the 12-year-olds and under. The youth disengagement that we are experiencing is 12 years of age and older. We are hoping this Youth Precinct will help to tackle this.

Q18: So building more parks will address the youth issue?

Response: It will give more activity for the youth to do.

Q19: Do they not have a skatepark now?

Response: Other towns have better skating facilities for their youth and the older age group, which we are speaking about. This current skate park is old.

Q20: You believe this will fix up our youth problem?

Response: It will help.

Mr Hodges

Q21: Has that been brought out by other towns that you are speaking about?

Response: It has for other towns such as Northam and Collie. It has addressed them in 2 ways. 1 is giving the additional activity and the 2nd way is providing a location for those young people to be. If there is graffiti etc., it is not spread throughout the town and is easier to manage. There are still management problems, but they are more confined and manageable. It's not the solution that will fix everything. This will require a multifaceted approach. But this is a start of the solution that the Shire can actively be involved to do, and it is also something that will start the engagement with our youth. It will send the message that we are interested and care.

Ms Steel

Q22: Why are you choosing the 2nd stage to go in that area. Why not up at the PRACC?

Response: This is where the existing skate park is, it is a central location, to the town and shops, bus stop. This is still out for consultation.

Mr Hodges

Q23: Rarely do kids have skateboards on the bus. What are they going to use?

Response: CEO responds suggesting that they consider adding lockers and investigate other options. These are equally as valid wherever the skate park will be. The skate park is likely more beneficial in the town centre.

Ms Steel

Q24: If public comment states that the skate park is wanted at the PRACC, will Council consider this?

Response: Council will consider public comment as it comes in and make a decision.

Ms Trump

Q25: Will you be advising or consulting me considering I am living next to the place? I am affected by the noise already.

Response: Yes, you would be one of the key stakeholders.

Ms Steel

Q26: Why is Council considering relocating the day care to the bowling club?

Response: The Shire has ambitions to have a 5 day a week childcare service, in the town. This leads us to finding a suitable place for a 5 day a week day-care and our 2 playgroups. To accommodate those 2 groups running simultaneously, we need to look at what building can accommodate that. One option is the old bowling club. This has enough space for both groups to run concurrently. The other reason to relocate is because it isn't suitable for purpose anymore. There are more regulations that have come in with regards to running a childcare service. We need a higher standard of building. The Shire has looked at the different options of buildings that are available, and the bowling club was identified as the one that is large enough and can be modified easily enough with an achievable price range. This would be in the ballpark of approximately \$50,000.00

Ms Borg

Q27: Have you had this professionally costed by a builder?

Response: The Shire are using our skills inhouse. We haven't had an outside builder cost it out. If this goes ahead, a lot of the work will be done in-house.

Ms Steel

Q28: Where in the budget did you find the \$50,000.00? Will you do this if you don't have a commitment by REED day-care?

Response: This money has been allocated in the budget.

Q29: Is this out of ratepayer's funds?

Response: That is out of ratepayer's funds. REED day-care currently has a commitment of 3 days a week.

Q30: Will they be contributing to the cost of refurbishment?

Response: They have applied for a grant for play equipment.

Q31: Will the President be looking to see that there is a good commitment to this spend of \$50,000.00 rate payer money for a commercial venture, even though it's a not for profit, before, to invest to ensure we are going to get a good return on that?

Response: It would have to be in communication with the operator to provide a service for a number of years, that way we can make the venture viable, with a lease of the building to them or some arrangement that they are provided with the building at a cost. There will have to be a lease arrangement or some arrangement to ensure good governance.

Q32: The \$50,000.00 has been budgeted, will you go ahead and do the work regardless now or will you flag that you will make sure that REED are going to utilise the building in the appropriate way? Are we sure it's going to happen in this budget - before June?

Response: It is unlikely to happen before June because it has to go out for consultation. The money can be carried over.

Ms Borg

Q33:

I have a concern about the distance of the township up the hill, with mums pushing prams or toddlers walking up the hill. It's a long way from the township.

Response: If a good service is provided, it is likely that it will be used.

Ms Steel

Q34: The minutes don't mention the day care doing 3 days. We only know what we read.

Response: All notes have been taken as we speak and will ensure they go into the minutes.

Mr O'Brien

Q35: From the minutes last year, 7,8 & 9. The culverts have not been done. The maintenance has not been done.

Response: It is a significant financial investment to upgrade culverts as required. The Shire needs to find the finance to replace them.

Q36: Most governments keep complaining about lack of finance. They don't have the money because they didn't spend it.

Response: The money has been spent and the roads have run out of gravel. We have no more material and only using the material that is on there, which is what you see in the paddocks. We want money to re-gravel the roads. It's not the lack of gravel in pits around us, it's the finances to re-build these roads to what they should be.

Q37: The maintenance is not being carried out; it is not being done.

Response: It is a financial issue to purchase and transport suitable material.

Ms Steel:

Q38: The laneway between the CRC and the town hall, it has been closed off for many months now due to work being done.

Response: The reason the laneway was closed off is because we did under-boring from that laneway through to Memorial Park in preparation of laying pipe in the process to replace the scheme water, (which waters Memorial Park, the caravan park and Pioneer Park), with bore and dam water. We have done the under boring under the pipes, but we haven't yet laid the pipes

Q39: When will you be completing that, it has been 3 months.

Response: CEO I don't have a date to lay the pipe yet. We are doing construction to the Wickepin-Pingelly Road at the moment until the 20th February at the least. This could be the earliest date that I could give you, to start on the trenching work.

Q40: It has reduced our parking and increased parking on the main street.

Response: The Shire may be able to isolate where pipework is and put cones around the pipework instead of the whole laneway, for safe parking.

Mr Freebairn

Q41: Grain freight route. Put the rates up a few years ago to pay for it. Is that gone? Is it going to happen? What's going on?

Response: I am on the Wheatbelt Secondary Grain Freight network steering committee. Our latest meeting was on the end of January. They are working towards the south regional road works. I can assure you it is happening.

Q42: Is the money still the same amount?

Response: Its 500 million dollars of the whole project. The Federal Government hasn't indicated at all that they will reduce that amount. Our costing has been done, its 19 million.

Q43: Who is the new chairman on the steering committee?

Response: Wayne Gibson.

Ms Steel

Q44: Has the Shire sought any funding for the emergency evacuation centre generator?

Response: Yes, we sought funding, we were unsuccessful in that grant round. I expect to put in for another round. If not, we will have to look at it for the budget for 2023.

Ms Wallace

Q45: I just found out there is a footpath going down review street. Is this going to be a cycle path?

Response: That's correct.

Q46: Is there a bicycle club in Pingelly?

Response: The funding for the path is from transport funding. Their interest lies in people cycling. They gave us money for bike paths not footpaths.

Q47: Will you arrange signage for a shared path?

Response: Yes, we will have some signs as well.

Ms Trump

Q48: From the shared path you have going from the school to the pool. The points going to the road are too steep. They need to be flattened.

This question was taken on notice. Response provided at Appendix 1.

Mr Lansdell

Q49: I am delighted in the work the shire has done with the fire problems around the town. Firebreaks are absolutely brilliant. The work done on the scrub and bush around the town have been thinned out and the culverts. I congratulate the shire for that because the hazard for that has been well and truly served. The amount of money coming into the town, Elders down there being revamped, the roadhouse is being revamped as well, as well as the hotel in town. I am really impressed.

The thing that worries me but, I have been broken into twice in 12 months. A few nights ago a man was staking my house and ran around the back. I was able to stop him from taking an item. My worry is the wealth coming into the town and the work that is being done. I am impressed with the PRACC and all that up there. The town has really move ahead.

The thing I find worrying is there is no cameras or monitoring. Can the Shire look at adding additional CCTV monitoring to the town?

Response: We have cameras in the Main Street. They are becoming outdated, have been there a number of years. As with all technology, its need to update. It's a matter of looking at the cost to update them and we need a few more around town in different locations not just in the main street. Most cameras are on the Main Street.

Thank you for the positive feedback and the comments on the fire breaks. These have made a big, big difference. That is through having a community emergency services manager who was able to source the money to be able to get hat work done. It makes our town safe.

Ms Steel

Q50: Will the shire be repaying the \$ 1.226872 for the PRACC loans this financial year?

Response: It has already been done. They were paid in December.

Q51: The Queens Jubilee tree planting, is there a plan of where all those trees are going to be planted?

Response: The overall concept is to plant them along the long bay parking behind the IGA. Plant some there towards the new curb. There is a couple there already. The rest on the entrance to town from Brookton.

Q52: Are Councillors required to declare any financial interests, actual or perceived? Is there a requirement to ensure there is transparency?

Response: It is the Councillor's own responsibility to declare interests including perceived

interests. Councillors receive training regarding declarations of interest.

Q53: Will the Christmas decorations be expanding next year to include more businesses?

Response: The intention is to expand it out, provided we get additional money through grants or through budget process.

Mrs Trump

Q54: Can the white ropes on the courthouse be removed please because they are flapping around in the wind.

Response: Yes.

No further questions.
Thank you for the attendance and participation.
No food tonight but welcome to a drink out of the fridge.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.16pm.

These minutes were confirmed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on

Signed.....
Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

26 April 2023

Mrs Elizabeth Trump

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Elizabeth Trump

Annual Electors Meeting 06/02/2023 – Question Taken on Notice

Thank you for attending the Annual Electors Meeting held at the Shire of Pingelly Council Chambers on Wednesday 6 February 2023. At this meeting you raised the issue of the slope of some of the pram ramps on the shared path running along Brown Street. Pram ramps are where the path slopes down to the level of the roadway.

So that this issue can be resolved, kindly provide clarification of the pram ramps that need to be changed. Once I have the particulars of this matter identified, the works requested will be added to the works schedule.

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