



# Shire of Pingelly

## Minutes

General Electors Meeting  
11 December 2019

**SHIRE OF PINGELLY**

**Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers,  
17 Queen Street, Pingelly on 11 December 2019 at 7.30pm.**

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## **1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

### **1.1 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 and present.

## **2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cr WV Mulroney	President
Cr DI Freebairn	Deputy President
Cr K Hastings	
Cr J McBurney	

### **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms J Burton	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Billingham	Director Corporate and Community Services
Mr D Watkins	Director Technical Services
Mrs L Boddy	Executive Assistant

### **APOLOGIES**

Cr P Wood  
Cr B Hotham  
Cr A Oliveri

### **OBSERVERS & VISITORS**

Mrs Lee Steel  
Mr Ron O'Brien  
Mr Kevin O'Brien (from 7.33pm)

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **3.1 General Electors Meeting – 5 February 2019**

#### **Statutory Environment:**

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meeting 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

**12792 Moved: Cr Freebairn                      Seconded: Cr McBurney**

#### **Recommendation and Council Decision:**

**That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 5 February 2019 be confirmed.**

Mr Kevin O'Brien entered the room at 7.33pm.

### **3.2 Mr Ron O'Brien**

Mr Ron O'Brien requested an update on last year's minutes, in particular the following items:

#### **Summary of Question:**

Operating activities to rate settlement I don't recall seeing the reply to this question, did Mrs Steel receive a reply to her question on notice from the last electors' meeting?

#### **Summary of Response:**

The DCCS advised that the reply was written in the minutes and the Shire President read this out to all present.

#### **Summary of Question:**

I would like to ask about the noticeboard and the Higgins collection and what the Shire is planning to do about it?

#### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President responded that a meeting has been held, it is in limbo at the moment due to consultation being undertaken about the use of the Town Hall and what other halls we have that are not being fully utilised, this will be re-visited in early 2020.

#### **Summary of Question:**

What about the noticeboard/honour boards for sporting clubs? Are we embarrassed by them?

#### **Summary of Response:**

There are still discussions taking place with council and the PRACC Board regarding this. The inside of the PRACC building, higher up, may not be strong enough and we are not sure how many can go in the area and where they can go as there are a lot of boards to be hung.

I will take this on notice and investigate and advise the outcome after February next year.

Carried 4:0

### **4. ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

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

**12793 Moved: Cr McBurney      Seconded: Cr Hastings**

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Annual Report of the Shire of Pingelly for the year ending 30 June 2019 be received.**

### **4.1 Mr Ron O'Brien**

#### **Summary of Question:**

How do we have a deficit, a decrease of \$1,667,000 and a difference attributed to the difference increase in depreciation expense? Is that a static figure or fluid?

#### **Summary of Response:**

The DCCS replied that the Shire has had a revaluation of its infrastructure, there have been huge increments in the revaluation so the level of depreciation has gone up even though it is a non cash item, increase in depreciation is big factor in why it is a deficit and not a surplus.

#### **Summary of Question:**

The graph on page 21 with the sliding scale – the current ratio has gone down so can I please have an explanation on that?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that the last two years have been affected by short term borrowings. They are currently sitting as current liabilities not spread over 20- years so that is affecting the current ratio. Until that is converted to a long term debenture it is affecting the ratio, once it is converted the current ratio will improve.

**Summary of Question:**

Time span please?

**Summary of Response:**

It is in this year's budget 19/20.

**4.2 Mr Kevin O'Brien**

**Summary of Question:**

What are the short term borrowings?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that it was for the Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre, to finish building and bowls rink.

**Summary of Question:**

The short term borrowings are for how long?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that we are paying a very low interest rate and this will convert to a 20 year debenture this year.

**4.3 Mr Ron O'Brien**

**Summary of Question:**

So the \$500,000 overdraft was drawn down?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS advised the Shire only just went into the overdraft once for approximately two weeks before money came into the bank again.

**Summary of Question:**

The asset review and funding ratio this was n/a to year 2017 but it has been in the last two budget reports.

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that this year was first year to be audited by the auditor general's office and they have taken a different viewpoint from previous audits. Previously they have accepted management averaging for the past two years for asset management plans, the Auditor General's Office will not accept we have a third year missing we must renew the plans they will not accept a ratio.

**Summary of Question:**

I would like to know ratio of annual rental income through unimproved capital between Rural and UV.

**Summary of Question:**

The DCCS replied the 2018/19 GRV raised was 33.4% and UV raised was 66.6%.

**4.4 Mrs Lee Steel**

**Summary of Question:**

Are we the only Shire that has been caught short by that as referred to above?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS replied that we are one of a handful of local governments in the same predicament.

**4.5 Mr Ron O'Brien**

**Summary of Question:**

The revenue operating grants show a big variance between budgeted and actual figures e.g. 1.1 million up against 1.7 million.

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that the Shire received a 50% advanced Federal Assistant Grants Scheme (FAGS) payment at the end of the financial year so we received \$656,000 which was approximately half of the allocation for this financial year so this flows into carried forward figure.

**Summary of Question:**

The fair variance between budgeted and actual - was there a drawdown on funds of long service or other leave?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS replied that when we budget we don't budget for any changes in provision of long service leave, annual leave or personal leave, the provision for personal leave was a new category and that went up \$32,000. The provision for long service leave is up \$64,000, the balance of employee costs was a little bit more time was spent by the outside workforce on operation jobs rather than capital jobs.

**Summary of Question:**

The variance expenses governance shows \$291,000 budgeted and \$539,000 in the previous year why have we got that variance in the budgeted figure and other two figures?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS replied that the Shire had budgeted to dispose of several properties, transferring the CRC Building and the joint venture units, this was a loss on disposal.

**Summary of Question:**

In relation to the unspent monies – \$230,000 is that secure?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS responded that at the end of 2018 we had unspent grants that were restricted that was put aside and carried forward.

**Summary of Question:**

So the money is secured?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS advised that yes it is restricted.

**Summary of Question:**

Re asset class - estimated life of plant – construction road base has a life of 40 years, there is a fair bit of road in the district which is 60 years old and we are still driving on it. Are we going to get worse and worse?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS advised that a figure used for average roads in the Shire is not for every road and that we have to come up with a figure - some last 60 years and some last 30 years, estimated life for a category and this is a benchmark.

**Summary of Question:**

Contaminated sites can you please tell me where they are and what is the contamination?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS produced some photos of the sites and advised that the auditor general took a strong view on contingent liabilities and put local governments on notice about contaminated sites. We are of the belief we do not need to create a contingent liability, just report on them. These sites were audited and they are happy with what we have produced.

**Summary of Question:**

Has there been some change in how lease money is looked at?

**Summary of Response:**

The DCCS advised there have been quite a few accounting industry changes coming in for last 12 months. This was one we had to adopt at the end of financial year, the way we treat leases is very different now. They require leases recorded in a different format, the financials are for the operating lease for the photocopier. From 1 July we have to create right of use asset for photocopier and show it through a schedule and when we make payments we have to show the different components.

Carried 4:0

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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

**5.1 Lee Steel**

**Summary of Question:**

Is Shire going to implement a plan of what roads have been badly done and prioritise the roads that need work most urgently?

**Summary of Response:**

The DTS advised that he has already started visual inspections and will create a roads hierarchy to prioritise roadworks.

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

These minutes were confirmed by Council at the General Electors Meeting held on

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

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