

SHIRE OF PERENJORI
MINUTES OF THE ELECTORS MEETING HELD AT THE
PERENJORI PAVILION ON TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2017, COMMENCED AT 5.30 PM

1. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

PRESENT	SHIRE PRESIDENT	Cr L Butler
	Deputy Shire President	Cr P Waterhouse
	COUNCILLOR	Cr L Smith
	COUNCILLOR	Cr K Pohl
	COUNCILLOR	Cr R Spencer
	CEO	Ali Mills
	MCDS	Peter Money
	RESIDENT	Brad Spencer
	RESIDENT	Andrew King
	RESIDENT	Brian Baxter
	RESIDENT	Joel Hesford
	RESIDENT	Paddy King
	RESIDENT	Rodney King
	RESIDENT	Janice Gellatly
	RESIDENT	Allan Gellatly
	RESIDENT	Jody Sutherland
	RESIDENT	Rick Wykstra
	RESIDENT	John Bendsdorp
	RESIDENT	Dael Sparkman
	RESIDENT	Jarran Richardson
	RESIDENT	Bob Charles
	RESIDENT	Russel White
APOLOGIES		
	COUNCILLOR	Cr R Desmond
	COUNCILLOR	Cr J Cunningham
		Brenda Bendsdorp

The Shire President Cr L Butler opened the meeting at 5.31 pm.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: John Bendsdorp

Seconded: Cr P Waterhouse

That the minutes of the Electors meeting held at the Perenjori Pavilion on Thursday 5th February 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record with amendment:

That Graham Atwell be thanked for his tremendous efforts at the Perenjori Caravan Park.

Moved: Cr R Spencer

Seconded: Cr P Waterhouse

That the minutes of the Electors meeting held at the Latham Community Centre on Tuesday 9th February 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record with amendment:

That Paddy King be recorded as attending.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moved: Cr R Spencer

Seconded: Jody Sutherland

That the President's report for the financial year 2015/16 as presented be received.

CARRIED

4. CEO REPORT

Moved: Cr Smith

Seconded: Cr Spencer

That the CEO's report for the financial year 2015/16 as presented be received.

CARRIED

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Moved: Cr P Waterhouse

Seconded: Cr L Smith

That the audited financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2016 be received.

2015 in the annual report should be 2015/16

CARRIED

6. AUDITORS REPORT

Moved: Cr P Waterhouse

Seconded: Cr L Smith

That the Auditors report from Council's Auditors Haines Norton for the year ended 30th June 2016 be received.

CARRIED

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

(Public Question Time)

B. Baxter – Follow up on previous finance query from last year regarding “other” monies and why was he not advised.

Answer: The answer for this query has now been documented in the previous Electors meeting minutes.

B. Baxter – Did Council allow for everyone to take the 10% discount on rates in the budget or only allow for 60 or 70 per cent of people and if so why was this procedure changed as this now also makes it harder for those with less money.

Answer: We go off the previous years and the amount of people who have taken the 10% per cent previously. We performed surveys though out the district on other Councils and we are the only ones to give the 10% discount.

A. Gellatly – Was rate payers money used to fund the new Café as I am a rate payer and did not get asked, this has now made competition for my business.

Answer: Yes the funds were allocated within Council's budget as a contribution towards the project. The CRC Café has been identified by the community as an important project and is a priority in the Community Strategic Plan.

B. Baxter – Did the Auditors make any recommendations to the Council?

Answer: Yes, operational process improvements which have been adopted and are being monitored through the Audit Committee.

J. Bendsorp – Could you please explain how a different company was awarded the tender for the seniors units on Russell Street, what was Councils decision?

Answer: The original tenderer went into liquidation requiring the Shire to assess all other tenders for selection of a builder. The Shire was then approached by two new companies who wanted to submit their quote. This was allowed under the presumption this was allowable within the regulations. All tenderers were assessed both previous and the two new tenders and presented to Council for consideration of selecting a preferred tenderer. The CEO became aware after the Council decision and the contract had been awarded that the correct process was to start a new tendering process.

B. Logue – The budget is not available on the website

Answer: We will ensure this is made available.

B. Baxter – When was the budget adopted?

Answer: July 2016

D. Sparkman – In the last Bush Telegraph there was a notice for the approval for further development of the light industrial area. Is there a call for it, where will it be? And did we approach someone for this to happen?

Answer: This will be about developing land and having it ready if new businesses come to town, LandCorp have approached us and will be doing this for us. We will be doing this to ensure the land is developed with utilities and headworks so it is ready for potential businesses; we have been approached in the past and have been unable to provide land of the size required. The process is very slow, hence the initiative to commence now. There is no cost to the Shire other than giving the land to LandCorp.

A. Gellatly – is there no land left in the industrial area?

Answer: All blocks are owned.

B. Baxter: Will these be fully serviced and how many blocks will be involved?

Answer: All will be serviced, numbers unknown at this stage. Landcorp will advise.

Cr K. Pohl – Could you please explain to everyone how we went about purchasing the 3 Caravan Park Units as it needs some explanation. Nobody qualified checked the units and money was spent over budget.

Answer: Three units were purchased to meet a housing demand from business, staff and community. There is increasing demand for smaller housing options for singles and couples without children. The units were identified being for sale, with an inspection from a non-builder with good faith put in the information and brochures provided. Unfortunately a deficient product was purchased resulting in extensive labour and materials to bring the units up to liveable and building standards which has meant a budget over run of \$100k across the three units. A process error was made by the CEO which has been admitted and acknowledged with Council putting in processes to prevent this from happening again. Lessons have been learnt to make a better decision in the future. Two units are occupied with the third being occupied in the next two weeks.

B. Baxter – Is there now a decision to make a building committee and if so how many Councillors will be on this panel?

Answer: Yes it will include the CEO, President, Deputy President and the Building Maintenance officer, and the Project Manager.

P. King – How much over budget have we gone on the units?

Answer: 100,000 over budget, due to maintenance. What was originally budgeted was not a realistic amount to adequately settle the units in Perenjori.

A. Gellatly - Who made the final decision to go ahead with the units?

Answer: Council

D. Sparkman – It has been made to sound like there are more businesses coming to town, is this case? I thought businesses seem to be leaving town?

Answer: We have two business still interested in growing services in Perenjori, being GG Pumps and Electrical and Herrings Plumbing. JMH relied on the accommodation to assist them, and we need smaller affordable accommodation for staff, who are single or a couple and don't require a big yard or living space.

D. Sparkman – Did the Shire staff receive a wage increase in the last financial year?

Answer: Yes they received a CPI raise across the board of 2% excluding those on a contract.

D. Sparkman - Are you as a Shire happy with how your shire staff looks after their houses? As it seems they don't water their lawns.

Answer: Yes, it can be difficult with big yards. We try to reduce lawns as much as possible with synthetic turf and add some native plants. It is a requirement as a tenant to look after their yards and we do send out notices if it is breached.

J. Bendsdorp – Do the shire still give \$40.00 off their water bills to staff?

Answer: Yes

B. Logue –It is hard to pick up the direct expenses from Blues for the Bush are you able to provide a report and give back to rate payers.

Answer: Yes we can place this on our website.

P. King – Blues for the Bush is a popular event but does it bring anything to town?

Answer: Yes, the whole main street was buzzing over the weekend. The street was lined with caravans on the Sunday with a lot of people looking for wildflowers and the Pub was very busy all weekend – maybe we could run some tours next time. The pub did well and so did the tourist centre. Need to provide people with more activity opportunities which will extend their stay and promote the town.

B. Logue – where would they stay?

Answer: there is a potential for overflow here on the town oval or to extend the camping on site at Charles Darwin Reserve.

D. Sparkman –Is there any improvements from the update in the Bush Telegraph regarding the power outages?

Answer: We are in constant contact with Shane love and the BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) should be installed in March this will potentially only give 3 hours back up however the Shire is pushing for solar to support this initiative and provide a longer term solution. We will be asking about response time and OHS rules for Western Power. Shane Love has had discussions with the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Energy. Western power will be at our next Council meeting.

D. Sparkman – How much money?

Answer: Around 3.2 million

A. Gellatly – Is the Shire paying for the BESS?

Answer: No, they are doing experiments, Western Power are putting in the money.

P. King – the BESS will only do half the town not the north side.

J. Bendsdorp – if someone actually told us the truth on how long they are going to be off for such as a recorded message the residents would be more patient.

R. Wykstra – The more complaints the more that will be done about it, you need to keep reporting to the head office and then you will see action.

Bev Logue – Can a claim form be placed in the Bush Telegraph for those who don't have internet.

Answer: Yes we will ask CRC

B. Spencer - Will there be work on this oval as it is looking quite bad, this seems to be the worst oval in the district which is not good enough, football is starting to get turned away and it is dangerous to play on.

Answer: We have had some water quality issues a lot of salt and minerals causing problems. Council has just approved a new product to reduce the minerals in the water. Also by fixing the edges with better soil and turf, as the current this grass isn't the best as it is couch and needs too much water. Timing is important to get this done and it is important we keep to the sporting groups coming here.

D. Sparkman – is it a possibility to use reclaimed water?

Answer: We don't have a pond to use reclaimed water; our bore is getting quite old and drawing minerals. The issues with the water quality will be assessed and something more suitable will be used. At this stage we are not sure on timing and will report that back to the community.

R. King – Could something please be done with the back lanes I have had my shop for 10 years and it has never been resurfaced, something needs to be done with the pot holes.

Answer: Yes we will have a look at what can be done.

R. White – Who will be fixing the line markings around town?

Answer: The line markings weren't meant to be done, main roads did this as they thought they were helping. These will be re done when the bitumen program re commences and when we re seal.

R. White – Too many road verges around town and out on the roads are overgrown with vegetation especially Bunjil – Carnamah Rd and Perenjori – Rothsay Road signs and intersections are over grown with vegetation. It would be beneficial for the Shire to purchase a mulcher to reduce the growth.

Answer: We recently purchased a specialist reach mower with an arm to do this, however we are still having debates between us and the Environmental people who are concerned about protected species. It is noted that there is work to be done on clearing road verges.

R. White – Can a number of Shires contribute to this machine as it may cost too much money and who is going to fix the Bunjil to Carnamah road that is ruined by water?

Answer: Yes good idea we are hoping this machine can help. The road was done by Royalties for Regions money and it is with the Carnamah Shire. It is likely they will receive funds to assist.

R White – Has anyone asked about the asbestos property's that are starting to weather - roofing and fencing.

Answer: Our Environmental Officer has conducted a scan across the town and had issued notices to houses with blatant issues. It is time to follow-up on these.

A. Gellatly – The Shire office is quiet bad, may need to be sprayed.

Answer: It is noted and will be addressed as resources are available.

R. White – We need to put some effort into the entry statements of the town and general tidiness of the town.

Answer: Noted.

D. Sparkman – It seems the cosmetic things around town are not getting done.

Answer: We do get a lot of positive feedback about the town and it's appearance, however we understand there is room for improvement.

D. Sparkman – Is anyone investigating into back up battery's for our vulnerable people in our community when there is internet, phones and power outages. Can we look into some grants to help especially for the seniors?

Answer: Good point we can approach Western Power.

Cr L Butler - Communication & mobile service should improve with the east Carnamah power going in soon. There will also be towers in east Bunjil, Bunjil Latham, east Latham (north Maya).

D. Sparkman – Can the Shire or CRC run an information session to get information out there especially regarding solar power as this may prevent people from losing their money.

Answer: We can suggest to CRC.

R. White – The bin collector keeps leaking oil on the road when they are picking up the rubbish each week.

Answer: We will raise this issue with the company.

9. CLOSURE

With no further business Cr L Butler closed the meeting at 6.59 pm.

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on 7th February 2017.

Signed: _____
Presiding Elected Member

Date: _____