

SHIRE OF PERENJORI
MINUTES OF THE ELECTORS MEETING HELD AT THE
PERENJORI PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 13th February 2019 COMMENCED AT 5.30 PM

1. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

PRESENT	SHIRE PRESIDENT	Cr Laurie Butler
	DEPUTY SHIRE PRESIDENT	Cr Peter Waterhouse
	COUNCILLOR	Cr Joanne Hirsch
	COUNCILLOR	Cr John Cunningham
	COUNCILLOR	Cr Kirk Pohl
	COUNCILLOR	Cr Lisa Smith
	COUNCILLOR	Cr Russell White
	CEO	Paul Bawden
	MIS	Ken Markham
	EA	Bianca Plug
	MCDS	Joelene Dennis
	RESIDENT	Jeff Curtin
	RESIDENT	Dael Sparkman
	RESIDENT	Elaine King
	RESIDENT	Brian King
	RESIDENT	Joel Hesford
	RESIDENT	Jody Sutherland
	RESIDENT	Ric Sutherland
	RESIDENT	Janice Spencer
	RESIDENT	Paul Spencer
	RESIDENT	Gabrielle Butler
	RESIDENT	Dale Fogarty
	RESIDENT	Marc Bennett
	RESIDENT	Les Hepworth
	RESIDENT	Bev Hepworth
	RESIDENT	Paddy King
	RESIDENT	Rodney King
	RESIDENT	Aaron Brunschot
	RESIDENT	Tara Bradford
	RESIDENT	Emily Eakins
	RESIDENT	Phil Logue
	RESIDENT	Jude Sutherland
	RESIDENT	Jim Pohl
	RESIDENT	Julie Lucas
	RESIDENT	Ian Spencer
	RESIDENT	Dene Solomon
APOLOGIES	RESIDENT	Brian Baxter
	RESIDENT	Cr Graeme Reid
	RESIDENT	Robin Spencer
	RESIDENT	Brad Spencer

The Shire President Cr L Butler opened the meeting at 5.33 pm.

Shire President Cr L Butler recognised the passing of Laurie and Audrey Chappel. Laurie was a Councillor with the Shire of Perenjori from 1960-1980 and Shire President from 1974 until retirement. Laurie Chappel was awarded Freeman of the Shire of Perenjori in 1982.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: Cr P Waterhouse

Seconded: Cr J Hirsch

That the minutes of the Electors meeting held at the Latham Sports Club on Tuesday 13th February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record with amendment.

CARRIED

3. RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved: Cr J Cunningham

Seconded: Cr J Hirsch

To receive the Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 2018.

CARRIED

Question on notice:

L. Hepworth - Can the ratepayers be told the total monies paid to Camerelli and Associates since they were first employed by the Shire.

Answer: The total amount paid to Camerelli and Associates was \$25,400. This covered a multitude of tasks. Camerelli and Associates were a HR consultant group and addressed a backlog of Shire HR issues.

D & J Van Brunshot – We Would like to make our concerns known regarding the heavy use of traffic on the north road and the Lochada Road, from Perenjori through to the intersection where it meets Mungarda Road and the bitumen. We are wondering if there are any plans to bitumise the roads in the near future, as these roads seem to be heavily used by Karara mining traffic being drive in drive out workers, delivery trucks and couriers. This mine could be in production for 30 to 70 years. We also have the gypsum pits that use the roads in the January to March period ongoing, also there is the tourist season where people are traveling out this way for the wild flower season. As you can see there are people on the road all year round. We find that there are several parts of the road that blow out within days of being graded, the area that we call the bends, 3 klms east of Solomon Road, is shockingly dangerous, where drivers travel on the wrong side of the road to avoid water damage wash outs, “my daughter has already ran off the road due to poor road conditions”. These are not average farm / country roads these roads are constantly being used as a mining access road and will be for a long time. I know that Perenjori collect a large amount for the rates from Karara mining operation and yet none of those funds seem to get spent on the road from where that money comes from.

Answer: A written response is being prepared for Dean and Jacqui.

Questions:

J. Spencer – Is the BESS working now?

Answer: Yes, we also now have a text messaging system in place to alert residents when BESS is operational so that minimal power can be used by residents until the power returns to its full capacity.

President L. Butler – An update on the Local Government Inquiry. It has not yet been handed to the Shire. We are hoping to receive the report in late February or Early March. The advice we have received is that there is a significant backlog of reports that the Department of Local Government are currently dealing with, one being the Shire of Perenjori’s.

K. Pohl – Will Council receive a draft report of the inquiry before it is released to the public?

Answer: No, not that we are aware of.

K. Pohl - Can we request that Council see the report first?

Answer: Yes, we will look into it.

L. Hepworth - Will ratepayers get to see the report?

Answer: Yes, the report will be released to the public.

J. Hirsch – Could the community please be told where we are at with Blues payments for the Bush and have we had a response from Bush Heritage Australia?

Answer: Bush Heritage Australia have been invoiced, they have come back with some queries and are seeking clarification on the amount to be paid.

J. Hirsch – How much was the invoice for?

Answer: \$81,000

J. Spencer – As the event was such a failure, will it happen again in the future?

Answer: This was planned as a series of three events with the support of Bush Heritage, with two still to be commissioned. Council will review the events and discuss the potential of any further events before a decision is made.

J. Spencer – How can there be another one held after an \$80,000 loss?

Answer: We are not locked into holding another one however Council will review this.

J. Spencer – Could it be canned?

Answer: Yes, it has been before. Some significant changes may be needed.

L. Hepworth – Sorry I missed it Laurie, how much was the loss?

Answer: \$80,000 each, so \$160,000 shared between Bush Heritage Australia and the Shire of Perenjori. This includes anticipated contributions and sharing of a cost overrun.

J. Spencer – Laurie I had spoken to you earlier about this late last year, we are still having Telstra issues. We seem to be in a grey area where it keeps dropping in and out. The Cunningham's tower didn't help.

Answer: The towers were constructed with Blackspot funding; 5 towers have been installed within our Shire and another 3 that border our Shire boundary. We will follow up with Robert Smallwood to see if the towers are working to their full potential and if any further towers will be installed.

J. Spencer – Is there still a chance of getting another tower?

Answer: Yes. We will meet with Telstra State Manager at a future Council Forum meeting. The 3G in town is scheduled to be upgraded to 4G next month and this may improve the situation.

J. Spencer – Telephone calls seem to drop in and out of 3G and 4G, upgrading to 4G may help our area.

Answer: We will monitor the situation.

P. Logue – With the amount of Telstra towers and the strength there is no download speed in town on Show Day.

Answer: Yes, it seems the towers get overloaded when there are large events on in town such as the Show Day. This will be another question for the Telstra State Manager.

B. King – This seems to be an aggravating issue, landline is coming to an end of its lifeline and the line is deteriorating.

Answer: Yes it does.

P. Logue – Are we monitoring the downloading and uploading speeds to give information to Telstra?

Answer: Yes, good point, we will look into it.

J. Spencer – The white cockies, what are we doing about them? They are everywhere, and it seems there are a few bird friendlies in town that are stopping it.

Answer: The Wannamal Gun club came to town a week ago, they shot 100 cockies. We intend to now shoot monthly and will approach our local gun club to undertake shoots in the future.

J. Spencer – Was 100 the limit?

Answer: No, this was the number shot during the scheduled period. Due to the cooler weather the cockies scattered during the shoot.

J. Spencer – Should it be started earlier? September/October and every weekend until they're gone?

Answer: We plan to now shoot on a monthly cycle.

J. Spencer – Can farmers shoot them? Or do we need a permit?

Answer: You can shoot them on your own property but not on public roads.

P. Spencer – This happened last year, why aren't they started in November? They should be started in November.

Answer: Last November we needed to apply for a permit to shoot the cockies, and were then bound by the permit's rules, one being that we had to have nominated shooters. As of the 1st January 2019 the rules changed where we no longer needed to apply for a permit. We are now only bound by the Fire Arms Act. In future we plan to start the shooting earlier and engage gun clubs to assist with this.

P. King – Does it cost the Shire?

Answer: Only the cost of ammunition used. The Wannamal Gun Club declined donation money. Fuel and travel cost was covered by the Gun Club.

P. Logue – Is the plan to move them on or kill them all?

Answer: The object of the shooting is to reduce the numbers and move them on however it is unlikely we would be able to manage all of them.

J. Hirsch – Why could we not shoot before 1st January?

Answer: We previously had to apply for a Permit to shoot and have nominated shooters. As of the 1st January 2019 we are now able to shoot through the year and are only bound by the rules of the Firearms Act.

J. Hirsch – We lose so much by not starting earlier. Can we get permits to start earlier?

Answer: We no longer need a permit and yes in future we will be able to start earlier.

R. White – CEO, did you say someone cleaned up the odd carcasses? There were 8 flapping around the street and one in care. Can we have someone do a drive around the next day?

Answer: Yes, tried to. The Wannamal Gun Club picked up as many as they could that were shot, we also had a Shire worker follow the shooters around and collect the carcasses however they were not able to collect the full 100. Some cockies may have been fallen outside the shoot area. Shire workers did pick up several carcasses during the following week.

J. Spencer – Can we bait them?

Answer: No we can't as this is illegal.

President L. Butler – A reminder that Council nominations are coming up for the Extraordinary Election in April. Nominations open on the 21st February 2019 and close at 4.00 pm on the 28th February 2019.

J. Curtin – Do you need to be from the Caron / Latham Ward to be elected?

Answer: No, just on the electoral roll. However, only people from that Ward can vote for the nominated candidate/s.

P. Spencer – Do the Shire vehicles have log books?

Answer: No.

P. Spencer – Why not?

Answer: We don't require them, only fuel books.

President L. Butler – The lack of an IGA in town has been an issue that Acting CEO's Stephen Tindale, Pascoe Durtanovich and now CEO Paul Bawden have been trying to progress in a vigorous manner. We are not suggesting that the Shire be the operator however there will be some discussion at the next Council forum to set up such a business. This is a crucial issue and there may be an opportunity to hold a community meeting to see what is possible.

P. King – Is there an update on any interest?

Answer: During Harvest I spoke to the Real Estate agent however at this stage Peter is still living there. Egan Street Resources have shown their interest in it for catering supplies.

P. King – Has anything been done about the sign on the door saying, "if you don't shop local the town will become a ghost town"?

Answer: We will look into this.

J. Hirsch – Can a community meeting be help ASAP?

Answer: We will start with discussing it at the Council forum this month and then go from there.

B. King – The Spoon Drains on Spencer Road, east of Rayner Road fill up and get overloaded and run across the road. There are not enough Spoon Drains and it has grooved the road.

Answer: Thank you, we will make a note of this.

P. Spencer – It is the same on Cannon Road, west. There are no spoon drains.

Answer: Thank you, we will make a note of this.

K. Pohl – In February last year I was approached by a local contractor Brad Cannon about a contract where he had quoted 40 grand and a company in Geraldton got it for 60 grand.

President L. Butler – Is this question relating to the inquiry?

K. Pohl – No it is not.

President L. Butler – I will let you continue Cr Pohl but if this is about the standards panel or the inquiry I will not be answering.

K. Pohl – It isn't about the standards panel or the inquiry. I took his concerns to Council however I got no response from the previous CEO, all my questions were shut down. After that you reported me to the authorities. This has been ongoing for 9 months and I have had to engage lawyers. Why did you report me to the authorities for asking questions Laurie?

President L. Butler – As Councillors we are bound by the Local Government Act, 1995.

K. Pohl – My reputation is being rubbed in the dirt. You have cost me all this money and all this stress.

R. White – You don't know the rules well enough Laurie.

J. Pohl – Just answer the bloody question.

J. Hirsch – We have had two very experienced acting CEO's and they have both said that the things Cr Pohl was reported for were valid questions.

President L. Butler – Explained the procedure and role of the Standards Panel to those present at the electors meeting.

5. CLOSURE

Due to disagreements Cr L Butler closed the meeting at 6.34 pm.

After the meeting was closed by the President L Butler, K. Pohl and R. White continued to shout and raise their voices. As K. Pohl stood up to leave the building he shouted towards the President saying (three times) in a very aggressive and angry tone "you're a disgrace".

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held 13th February 2019.

***Signed: _____
Presiding Elected Member***

Date: _____