



Shire of
Perenjori
Embrace Opportunity

MINUTES
for the
AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING

25 MARCH 2021

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COUNCIL ROLE

Advocacy	When Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government /body /agency.
Executive/Strategic	The substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council e.g. Adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets.
Legislative	Includes adopting local laws, town planning schemes and policies.
Review	When Council reviews decisions made by Officers.
Quasi-Judicial	When Council determines an application/matter that directly affects a person's rights and interests. The Judicial character arises from the obligations to abide by the principles of natural justice.

Examples of Quasi-Judicial authority include town planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (e.g.: under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.

DISCLAIMER

“Any statement, comment or decision made at a Council or Committee meeting regarding any application for an approval, consent or licence, including a resolution of approval, is not effective as an approval of any application and must not be relied upon as such.

Any person or entity that has an application before the Shire must obtain, and should only rely on, written notice of the Shire's decision and any conditions attaching to the decision and cannot treat as an approval anything said or done at a Council or Committee meeting.

Any advice provided by an employee of the Shire on the operation of a written law, or the performance of a function by the Shire, is provided in the capacity of an employee, and to the best of that person's knowledge and ability. It does not constitute, and should not be relied upon, as a legal advice or representation by the Shire. Any advice on a matter of law, or anything sought to be relied upon as a representation by the Shire should be sought in writing and should make clear the purpose of the request.”

SHIRE OF PERENJORI

Minutes for the Shire of Perenjori Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25 March 2021, at the Shire of Perenjori Council Chambers, 56 Fowler Street Perenjori WA 6620, commenced at 1:30 pm.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS:

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 1:30 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

Welcome to Country: -

As per the Shire of Perenjori Policy (N^o 1021) we wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which the Shire of Perenjori is situated and to demonstrate respect for the original custodians.

Therefore, I respectfully acknowledge the past and present custodians of the land on which we are meeting, the Badymia people.

I also acknowledge the pioneers who settled this country, developed the land and turned it into the productive country that we know today, allowing us to enjoy the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed.

2. DISCLAIMER READING:

As printed.

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

3.1 ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS:

Cr Chris King – Shire President
Cr Jude Sutherland – Deputy Shire President
Cr Brian Baxter
Cr Daniel Bradford
Cr Colin Bryant
Cr Les Hepworth
Cr Phil Logue

STAFF:

Mario Romeo – Chief Executive Officer
Wayne Scheggia – Executive Advisor

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: Nil.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Nil.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Nil.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

5.1 AUDIT MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2019

It was noted that the Council was under the administration of Commissioner P Omodei at the time of the meeting.

COMMITTEE DECISION

THAT the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 29 August 2019, presented in attachment 5.1 (a), be confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Cr B Baxter Seconded: Cr P Logue Motion put and carried 7/0

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

“Members should fill in Disclosure of Interest forms for items in which they have a financial, proximity or impartiality interest and forward these to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences.”

No declarations of interest were made.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 ADOPTION OF COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN

Applicant:	Shire of Perenjori
File:	ADM0057
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Author:	Mario Romeo - Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer:	Mario Romeo - Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	7.1 (a) Compliance Audit Return 2020

Executive Summary:

This Item recommends that the Audit Committee accepts the attached Compliance Audit Return.

Background:

Local Governments are required to carry out a compliance audit in relation to the period 1 January to 31 December each year relative to the requirements set out in the attached document.

The return is completed online via the Department of Local Government (DLG) website and provided to the Audit Committee prior to being referred to the Council for adoption.

The return addresses various compliance matters with which local government CEO'S must advise the Department they have complied with or explain why a matter was not compliant.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 clause 14 requires adoption of the Return prior to providing it to the Department of Local Government.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Legal Compliance:

Nil.

Risk Management:

Risk Statement	Level of Risk	Risk Mitigation Strategy
Risk ensuring compliance with Acts and Regulations ensuring accountability to the Council and community.	The level of risk is dependent on the implications of compliance or non-compliance.	Each relevant employee reports on matters of compliance for their area of responsibility.

Consultation:

Accountant.

Financial Implications:

Nil.

Strategic Community Plan:

Area 5: Investing in Councils Leadership.

Goal: Strengthen the Shire's position as an innovative, independent local government providing excellence in all areas of governance, management and leadership.

CEO Comment:

One significant non – compliance item in the report is Audit Reg 17 (optional question No 2) has not been completed. Also, the Shire is still awaiting the finalisation of the 2019/20 Financial Report (finance question No 5). This was submitted to AMD (our Auditors) prior to the deadline of September 30th, 2020 but had to be revised due to regulatory changes. The regulatory changes were to come into effect on the 1st July 2019 in relation to the value for crown land and any revaluation on plant & equipment type assets. The regulatory changes were gazetted on the 7th November 2020. Whilst the result had an insignificant impact on our organisations reporting it (in our view) has been the main reason for the delay in finalisation of our 2019/20 financial statements, along with many other local government entities.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority

No Change. OR:

As per Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 11(da) Council records the following reasons for amending the Officer Recommended Resolution:

7.1.1 ADOPTION OF COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN 2020

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2020 Compliance Audit Return be endorsed, and it be submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural industries by the 31st March 2021.

7.1.2 ADOPTION OF COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN 2020

COMMITTEE DECISION

THAT the 2020 Compliance Audit Return be endorsed, and it be submitted to the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural industries by the 31st March 2021.

Moved: Cr J Sutherland Seconded: Cr D Bradford Motion put and carried 7/0

8. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Purchasing Policy

Cr Logue enquired as to the status of the new purchasing policy and the CEO advised that it was currently pending advertising but would be revised and reported to a future Council Meeting.

Forum Topic

Cr Baxter proposed that the "Future of the Community" be discussed at the next Council Forum.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 2:00 pm.

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next Audit Committee meeting date will be advised.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 22 April 2021, commencing at 3:00 pm at the Shire of Perenjori Council Chambers 56 Fowler Street, Perenjori WA 6620.