



MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS OF THE SHIRE OF GINGIN

21 DECEMBER 2017



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HELD ON
21 DECEMBER 2017

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SHIRE OF GINGIN

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), an Annual General Meeting of Electors is to be held once in each financial year to consider the contents of the Shire's Annual Report for the previous year, and to consider other general business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OFFICIAL OPENING – WELCOME BY PRESIDENT

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors – I B Collard (Shire President), J W Elgin (Deputy Shire President), C W Fewster, F Johnson, J C Lobb, and F J Peczka

Staff – J Edwards (Chief Executive Officer), Z Edwards (Acting Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), K Lowes (Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services), A Butcher (Executive Manager Operations), L Edwards (Executive Manager Planning and Development) and L Burt (Governance/Minute Officer)

Public – There were nine members of the public present.

2.2 APOLOGIES

Councillor J Court
Councillor J K Rule
Councillor J E Morton

2.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3. PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGM AND ANNUAL REPORT

Section 5.29 of the Act requires that members of the public must be notified of a forthcoming Annual Meeting of Electors, and of the availability of the Annual Report, by way of a notice appearing in a newspaper circulating throughout the district. Public notice must be given at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

In accordance with this requirement, the Shire of Gingin gave public notice of the forthcoming Annual Meeting of Electors, and the availability of the Annual Report, in the following newspapers:

<i>Northern Valley News</i>	8 December 2017
<i>North Coast Times</i>	12 December 2017
<i>Advocate</i>	13 December 2017

In addition, the notice also appeared on the Shire of Gingin website and on official notice boards at the Shire's Gingin Administration Centre and Lancelin Office, and the Gingin Public Library.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Financial Statements for 2016/17 were adopted by Council at its meeting on 21 November 2017 (Item 11.2.4), with the 2016/17 Annual Report being received at a Special Council meeting on 5 December 2016 (Item 11.1.1).

Consistent with Section 5.27 of the Act and Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* (the Regulations), electors present at the Annual General Meeting of Electors are invited to raise for discussion any matters concerning the content of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

No matters concerning the content of the Annual Report and Financial Statements were raised from the floor.

5. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the Act and Regulation 15 of the Regulations, electors present at the Annual General Meeting of Electors are invited to raise any items of general business for discussion.

5.1 PARKING METERS IN GUILDERTON KERRY ENRIGHT - GUILDERTON

I'm asking that Council reconsider the installation of parking meters on the foreshore of Guilderton. Lancelin must have the same problem as us and they don't seem to be getting them.

I'm greatly concerned for my business, but personally I'm really sad that Council considers this a solution.

Could Council liaise with the Dandaragan Shire about tourism and their own ongoing cost problems?

Can the old cricket pitch be considered for an excess car park to take the overflow cars from the Guilderton Foreshore?

Response by Shire President

Your comments in relation to the introduction of paid parking at Guilderton are noted by Council.

With respect to the Shire of Dandaragan's situation, I'd like to point out that the town of Jurien has a coastal foreshore frontage of about five kilometres and therefore doesn't experience the parking congestion that occurs in Guilderton.

Response by Chief Executive Officer

As part of the Northern Growth Alliance consisting of the Shires of Dandaragan, Chittering and Gingin, funding has been obtained from the Wheatbelt Development Commission to develop a regional tourism strategy. A consultant will be starting work on this project in the New Year.

5.2 MOORE RIVER SAND BAR LINDA JOHNSON - GUILDERTON

What is Council's position on breaking of the sand bar at the mouth of the Moore River? Previously there was advisory signage in place alerting the public to the fact that artificial breaking of the bar was illegal, however this is no longer in place. Will signage be reinstated?

Response by Shire President

"Breaking" of the sand bar at Guilderton by members of the public is still illegal. Unfortunately, repeated unauthorised opening of the bar over the years has resulted in silting up of the river mouth because a volume of water sufficient to flush the estuary has not been allowed to build up. This means that the river rarely breaches naturally now.

In addition, the unauthorised breaks have usually been made in positions other than where the bar would naturally breach, resulting in erosion damage to surrounding land and infrastructure.

With respect to signage, unfortunately the experience in recent years has been that it is removed by vandals almost as soon as it is erected.

Response by Chief Executive Officer

The Shire has been authorised by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to open the bar as the Shire deems necessary, in accordance with guidelines provided by the Department. This approval has been granted with the objective of ensuring that breaks occur in a position on the bar that is approximate to where it would naturally breach. It is hoped that if these controlled breaks remove the opportunity for public intervention, then over time the estuary may regain its ability to breach naturally.

This week the Shire did attempt to cut the bar, unfortunately a member of the public managed to create an unauthorised break prior to the controlled breach being completed.

As advised by the Shire President, one of the problems with signage is the fact that it is constantly being removed by vandals, particularly signage positioned on the south side of the estuary. However, the Shire will certainly look at reinstating a sign on the northern side.

**5.3 MOORE RIVER SAND BAR
KERRY ENRIGHT**

Is there a way of educating the public about the problems caused by artificial breaking of the bar? Could a flyer be made available to customers coming into the caravan park?

Response by Shire President

There is interpretive signage already in place on the river front.

6. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6.41pm and invited all those in attendance to join Councillors and staff for refreshments.

FOOTNOTES:

The following footnotes provide an overview of the legislative provisions governing the format and procedure for the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Prepare Annual Report

The Act requires that the Local Government is to prepare an Annual Report (Section 5.53), accept the Annual Report (Section 5.54), advertise its availability to the public (Section 5.55) and hold an Annual Meeting of Electors within 56 days of accepting the Annual Report (Section 5.27).

Matters for discussion at the Annual Meeting of Electors

In accordance with Section 5.27 (3) of the Act and Regulation 15 of the Regulations, the matters to be discussed at the Annual Meeting of Electors are firstly the contents of the Annual Report for the previous Financial Year and then any other general business.

President to preside at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Section 5.30 of the Act stipulates that the President (or if not available, the Deputy President) is to preside at an Electors' Meeting.

Voting at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Regulation 17 of the Regulations outlines the voting provisions at an Electors' Meeting as follows:

Each elector at the Meeting is entitled to one vote on each matter to be decided, but does not have to vote;

All decisions are to be made by a "Simple Majority" vote; and

Voting is to be conducted so that no voter's vote is secret.

Procedure at the Annual Meeting of Electors

Regulation 18 of the Regulations states that the procedure at an Annual Meeting of Electors is to be determined by the person presiding (President or Deputy President) at the meeting.

Decisions made at an Annual Meeting of Electors

In accordance with Section 5.33 of the Act, all decisions made at an Annual Meeting of Electors are to be considered at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council or, if that is not practicable –

At the first Ordinary Meeting of Council after that meeting or

At a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

If at a Meeting of the Council a Local Government makes a decision in response to a decision made at an Annual Meeting of Electors, the reasons for the decision are to be recorded in the Minutes of the Council Meeting.

Definition of Elector

An Elector is defined under the Act as a person who is eligible to vote in an election of the Shire of Gingin.

Speaking at Electors' Meetings

When addressing the Meeting, please step up to the lectern and state your name and address for minute taking purposes.