



SHIRE OF BODDINGTON

'The Council and Staff of the Shire of Boddington, in partnership with the community, are committed to operating effectively and efficiently to provide quality lifestyle opportunities that encourage population growth and development'

Minutes

FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

HELD AT

6:30pm

Thursday 6th February 2020

Shire of Boddington Council Chambers
39 Bannister Road, Boddington

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING:

Cr McSwain declared the meeting open at 6:30pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

2.1.1 Attendance

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Cr R McSwain | Shire President |
| Cr G Ventris | Deputy Shire President |
| Cr C Erasmus | |
| Cr J Hoffman | |
| Cr W McGrath | |
| Cr E Schreiber | |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Mr C Littlemore | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr C Browne | Manager Works & Services |
| Mr P Haas | Principal Environmental Health Officer/Building Surveyor |
| Mr J Rendell | Manager of Finance |
| Mr G Stanley | Director of Corporate & Community Services |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Ms T Hodder | Executive Officer (minutes) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|

7 Visitors

2.1.2 Apologies

Greg and Maxine Marston

2.1.3 Leave of Absence

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST:

Nil.

4. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2018 – 30 JUNE 2019

The Annual Report was presented to the meeting by the Shire President Cr Rod McSwain who read the President's Report.

5. GENERAL MEETING:

Anonymous: (Written questions) Does the shire intend to gather its own dust data via monitors to the town? S32 only measure pm10 (2.5-10 micron), while studies show up to 40% of bauxite dust is pm2.5. The dust block agent is not being used on the northern area of Marradong mine; it stops just 100 metres over Morts road, so a large area of the mine is affecting air quality to the town's children and residents with a westerly wind and is not being treated. They need to expand the dust block agent use over the Marradong North West pit areas.

Shire President: The answer is no; the Shire does not have the staff or qualifications, the EPA has the authority on this. Cr McGrath is the delegate to South 32.

Cr McGrath: Monitors are set around the perimeter and checked daily.

Anon: Will the shire be swapping all shire vehicles electric or plug in hybrids? I understand the 4wds are not available just yet but Hyundai & Nissan both have good options available as well as the hybrid Toyotas.

Shire President: The CEO was at a function at Peel Chamber of Commerce. The manager there was given an electric vehicle and the CEO was impressed with the vehicle. The issue is the range of the vehicles; there is yet to be a 4 wheel drive available in Australia. The Shire is looking at its carbon footprint with solar panels on its buildings. Also the council recently approved the Green Canopy project which will start this calendar year.

Anon: The trees along Banister road from Albany highway look very sick, dead and dying- I'm guessing some due to a low rainfall winter 2019 but it looks as though whoever is doing the road side weed spraying has got very loose with the spraying- also along the road towards Marradong. Will the Shire consider cutting down these trees and replanting with something more drought tolerant- suggest Cape Lilac or Lemon scented gum or something- the small red flowering gums look very sick? Also, between the Gold mine road and town bridge, could some big dead Marri trees be removed and replanted? I think it would make the town more appealing.

Shire President: Bannister road to town is the responsibility of Main roads. Anyone in the community can contact Main Roads. Cr Hoffman is the representative on the Roads committee, so can follow up at their next meeting.

Anon: Could the Shire talk to the Gold Mine to see that the two pits will be kept separate- there may be a chance to build a stored energy hydro plant there and please ask Newmont and south32 where they are at in terms of emission reductions? The CEOs of these companies are filthy rich but where is their plan to reduce carbon- it's our Shire they are operating in- perhaps local Shire pressure will spur them into action?

To be carbon neutral by 2050, we need to reduce by just over 7% per year.
To meet the Paris agreement, we need to reduce co2 by 50% by 2030- are the Shire operations on board with this?

Shire President: Yes, the Shire can speak to the mine. Cr Erasmus is the representative to Newmont and Cr McGrath is the representative to South 32. It is not up to the Shire to influence business decisions. The Shire can advise them of concerns within the Shire of carbon emissions; as citizens, we can all play a part to reduce our carbon footprints at work and at home.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mrs Gabe Roberts: Can the large mosaic be linked to a walking tour – is there potential for a mud-map walk through town– could brochures available at the Visitor Information centre and at the BCRC?

Shire President: We discussed the sculpture and art at the info session; Council is in favour with art trail in town and is looking at a plaque with each statue to tell its story and this would more than likely include the mosaics.

CEO: The sculptures will be dispersed and form part of longer term projects.

Cr Schreiber: I am expecting to discuss this with shortly with someone affiliated with the mosaic group.

Cr Hoffman: we could build a wall for it is necessary.

Mrs G Roberts: The Main Street needs beautification.

Cr Hoffman: The mosaic will be in a prominent location.

Mrs G Roberts: can we do something about the brown rubbish bins in town? Can we put them in front of the businesses so they can be responsible for their up-keeping? Can they be dual purpose bins?

Ms Toni Collins: would the Shire consider changing the pool hours from 6am to 10am and from 1pm to 7pm? Mat would be happy with these hours.

Shire President: Thank you for raising this. I believe this is a good idea.

Ms T. Collins: is there any feedback on the Aged Care accommodation?

CEO: It is in our Strategic Community Plan to push this. Council is about to consider how to make this a reality. Within the next 60 days there will be public information available.

Ms T. Collins: When will the entry statements to town be completed?

Shire President: We would like them completed before the rodeo; I expect completion prior to that.

CEO: The steel for Albany Hwy was ordered today. The entry by the truck-bay is nearing completion. Both projects should be finished by end of June.

Ms T. Collins: The Suez trucks are still losing a great deal of rubbish- how often do they clean up?

Shire President: This was discussed this last week while on a tour there. They do this every 2 weeks. They are open to phone calls if a large amount of rubbish is seen.

Ms T. Collins: How successful have they been in obtaining other businesses to go there?

Shire President: Suez owns the back part. The first 6 Kms are owned by Culford. The back plot of Culford area is used by Richgro who signed a 20 year lease last year. Tenants are being sought for the front area.

Ms T. Collins: How many trucks a day do we get now?

Shire President: up to 40-45 a day

Ms T. Collins: Cleanaway had an accident in Perth; would we or Suez allow them to bring extra rubbish here?

Shire President: I have heard that 50% of the recycling is going to landfill. Council's aim is to attract businesses & employment to the Shire. Recycling is a big topic in the community and there is potential for this type of business.

CEO: I contacted WALGA in relation to Cleanaway incident to advise them of our intentions that North Bannister may become a future industrial estate. They will raise this with Cleanaway.

Ms T. Collins: Is this only for recyclable?

CEO: It was open ended.

Cr Erasmus: Following discussions with Suez, it appears the tarps are not strong enough; they may need to be all steel.

Shire President: I should clarify there are 45 trips a day, so the same truck travels backwards and forwards.

Mr Tom Hardie: We used to burn our farm roads and this resulted in good firebreaks. This was stopped; can this be revisited? Can the roads be graded more often as the verges are overgrown? I have reported it several times to the Works Manager but nothing has been done. It is difficult to get water from the dam to dam – can someone look at this?

Shire President: Late last year I asked the CEO if we are ready for fire season and he said yes. From a bushfire point of view, I met with Cr Schreiber and Bob Jones and the council would like to see all 4 fire brigades have their equipment up to date. On the grading issue, the farming community certainly plays an important part and the shire need to look at this closer.

Tom Hardie: I would like to show some councillors around.

MWS: Two graders are in work at the moment

Mr Tom Hardie: We used to have a town burn in late spring – there are good slashers in town but there is always room for improvement.

CEO: Thank you for your input. The State Government has made funding available to keep verges safer and do parkland clearing. The works manager does have a plan to attend to the verges.

Cr Schreiber: A DFES officer was in town discussing training with William Batt. Josh our ranger looks after PPE for fire brigade; we will discuss roadside verge at LEMC at end of month.

Mrs G. Roberts: I have had to do some catering at the Rec Centre kitchen – twice I've been unable to use the kitchen facilities as they were not in operation; the general cleanliness of the kitchen was ordinary. The window panes and entry doors were not clean. Will Council please consider offering the cleaning contractor extra hours to assist with cleanliness?

Peter Haas: Agrees

Ms G. Roberts: How can this progress?

Shire President: we do have a contract with the cleaner. Council approves the contract then Mr Haas follows it through.

CEO: I suggest that Peter and I meet with the contractor to discuss.

Mrs G Roberts: The Ranford Pool upgrades are great but there are safety concerns for the entry to water. Will guide rails be installed and can it be wheel chair accessible?

Shire President: When it was upgraded, I raised the need to be aware of our disability and inclusion plan. I was unaware of issues until this was raised. These issues need to be identified.

Cr Schreiber: I have been in contact with Mel Durack and plan to view it with her.

Cr Erasmus left the room at 7:35pm.

Shire President: We need to look at disability accessibility.

CEO: Council is not obliged to make everywhere wheelchair friendly. Our works manager does have a plan to address the pea gravel; perhaps crushed limestone could be used instead, in order to improve the safety.

Mrs G. Roberts: Looking at the river upstream, across the bridge – was there a grant to do some sediment studies? Has it been done and are results in?

CEO: The studies are almost complete so they are going to take more samples next week; the final report should be ready by end of April.

Mrs G. Roberts: What will be done with the report? How will the town be beautified in all areas?

Cr Hoffman: We are looking at it in stages – develop the foreshore with the intention of enabling people to swim in the weir again.

Mrs G Roberts: With all the redevelopment at foreshore, the vision is we will have families visiting town. However we only have one small toilet facility. Will there be any more ablution facilities? Why isn't there a second ablution in the plan?

CEO: There will be a second ablution.

Mrs G Roberts: Are there plans for more shaded areas?

CEO: There are no plans for natural shade.

Mrs G Roberts: Can we look at having more shaded areas? With climate change, it is very important.

In regards to the recent tours by councillors to Newmont and Suez? : outside of business support for catering, 80% of Newmont employees do not know what is available on this side of town. Is there a brochure about Boddington at the Camp and mine-site so the workers know businesses are here and what the community has to offer? What can we do about this?

Cr Hoffman: When we attended the tour to Newmont, I asked Newmont about its commitment to the town - we are in an ongoing conversation re their engagement in the town.

Mrs G Roberts: Where does the conversation end?

Shire President: I wanted the engagement with the 3 big players. It involves local procurement but it has lapsed.

Ms G Roberts: Mine houses are left empty in town – why are they empty?

The LOAF funds came from the rates the community club paid. Is that the case now?

CEO: Over recent years, no money has gone into the LOAF fund from rates however more money is being budgeted to spend on LOAF grants that the Council receives in rates, so I guess the community is in front.

Mrs G Roberts: In regards to funds currently sitting in the held LOAF fund, what will this be used for?

CEO: This has not been decided as yet.

Mr Chris Porter: Can we offer the volunteer bush fire brigade members support in obtaining their HR licences so they can drive the larger vehicle?

Shire President: Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Cr Schreiber: A brigade member asked me how to get a licence – I suggested he go the training in Narrogin. DFES may help out with funds. Perhaps BCRC can organise a course.

Cr McGrath: Perhaps costs could be reimbursed.

Mr P. Haas: It can be expensive; I recommend approaching DFES.

Mrs Eugene Smalberger: Is there something you can do to keep families in town? The school does not provide for the last two years of schooling.

Can you look at improving the facilities at the pool?

Cr Hoffman: The school is state government run- schools are governed by student numbers.

Mrs E Smalberger: Are we able to ask the mines for help?

Cr Hoffman: Yes, that can be done.

Mrs E. Smalberger: We are trialling a recycling experiment for 3 months, then approaching Shire and plan to ask for a space where we can place machines to reduce plastic.

Cr Erasmus returned to Chambers at 7:57pm

Cr Schreiber: An option has been looked at.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING:

Shire President, Rod McSwain declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm.

These minutes were confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 20 February 2020

Rod McSwain
(Shire President)