



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

of the
Annual Electors Meeting
of
the Shire of Boddington
held at
Boddington Community Club

7:30 PM,
TUESDAY 18th December 2012

at the
Boddington Community Club
at Club Drive, Boddington

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING:

The Shire President, Cr Allert, declared the meeting open at 7:32pm.

2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

ATTENDANCE

Cr JR Allert	President
Cr DN Veitch	Deputy President
Cr PR Carrotts	
Cr GJ Day	
Cr N Crilly	
Cr J Goodgame	
Mr G Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Ms C Martin	Director Corporate Services
Mr T Pearson	Director Special Projects
Mr P Haas	Principal Environmental Health Officer/Building Surveyor
Mrs A Patten	Manager Community Services
Mr S Thompson	Planning Consultant
Ms T Collins	
Mrs G Roberts	
Mr & Mrs Chad & Lisa Yugovich	
Mrs S Laidlaw	
Mr B Junk	
Mr & Mrs K & E Noonan	
Mr & Mrs F & M Waite	
Ms E Cheney	
Mr L Cheney	
Mr G Beaton	
Mr & Mrs T & H Mark	
Mr & Mrs J & C Smailes	
Ms R Lindner	
Ms M Taylor	
Mr R Josland	
Ms A Josland	
Mr S Bushell	
Mr I Harrison	
Mr M Shaw	
Mr C Kemp	

APOLOGIES

Cr EK Hoek
Mr G Marston
Mrs M Marston

3 DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST:

Nil

4 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY 2011 TO 30TH JUNE 2012:

The Annual Report is to be presented to the meeting by Shire President Cr Allert.

Cr Allert read his Presidents' Report and invited comment from the meeting.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS:

5.1. Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Ms Toni Collins asked why Council had selected the location of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower in the industrial area when so many other locations could have been considered.

Mr Sherry replied that Council had not selected the site of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower. The site selection had been done by NBNC_o without Council consultation and was then submitted as a planning application that Council must consider.

Further Mr Sherry added that Council had been contacted over other possible locations for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower where those locations were Shire property. Mr Sherry said those locations had been discounted because they were close to residences and in very prominent locations.

5.2 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mrs Rosemary Lindner asked why very little time had been allocated to the public consultation over the proposed Wireless Broadband tower.

Mr Sherry replied that the community consultation for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower had been timed to ensure that the matter was dealt with promptly.

Mr Sherry said that he was happy to reassess the consultation period if there was benefits to extending it. Mr Sherry advised that he was confident that the community was aware of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower and to date 8 submissions had already been received by Council.

Mr Thompson outlined the Statutory Appeals Tribunal (SAT) implications for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower planning application, including the requirement to consider the application within 90 days of receiving the application.

5.3 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

The meeting was told of concerns over the emissions of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower, expressing concern over the health implications and scepticism over the reliability of the reliability of the scientific advice. Products such as cigarettes and asbestos had once been

thought of as safe and there may be future changes to the safe levels for the emissions from the proposed Wireless Broadband tower.

Mr Sherry advised that NBNC Co advised that the emissions of electromagnetic radiation levels from the proposed Wireless Broadband tower would be 0.012% of the public exposure limit.

Mr Thompson further explained the Statutory Appeals Tribunal (SAT) implications for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower planning application. NBNC Co, like any person or body that submitted a planning application, were able to appeal any decision of Council made about the planning application to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT).

It is largely thought by local governments that SAT can be more supportive of an applicant seeking planning approval than the local government seeking to deny a project. Therefore Council was required to consider the planning application for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower on the facts of the application and not just on the community's support for a project. Council would need to only consider the latest Australian health standards, the location of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower in the Boddington industrial area and the provable impacts on neighbours.

5.4 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Ms Melissa Taylor stated that the proposed Wireless Broadband tower was a real big issue for Boddington and the local residents needed the Councillors to stand up for the effected local residents. In particular Ms Taylor stated that the proposed Wireless Broadband tower would have severe health impacts on residents and substantially devalue her property.

Ms Taylor also stated that the timing for this proposal, during Christmas and holiday season, could have been a deliberate ploy by NBNC Co to hide their application.

5.5 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mr Chad Yugovich asked if Council was aware of other Wireless Broadband towers and other communities where Wireless Broadband towers had been installed and what those communities had done to ensure that the Wireless Broadband towers where installed in places suitable to the community.

Mr Sherry advised that he wasn't aware of any other communities who have gone through a planning application process for locating a wireless broadband tower but would seek to locate information.

5.6 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mr Ray Josland urged Council to not approve the planning application. Mr Josland outlined the health risks and the devastating effect on the value of this property. Mr Josland also highlighted the impact on his family and how upsetting the proposed Wireless Broadband tower was.

Mr Josland urged Cr Carrotts, who had a long history of many positive community works, to reconsider his decision to accept an offer from NBNC Co to locate the proposed Wireless Broadband tower on his property.

Mr Josland outlined that the proposed Wireless Broadband tower was not a good thing for the young families moving to Boddington, exposing their children to the health risks from the proposed Wireless Broadband tower.

5.7 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Ms Toni Collins outlined her belief that other sites would be suitable and that Council should seek to find better locations. In particular it was suggested that land set aside for development would be a good site. At the time the land is subdivided, the buyers of the new property would be aware of the location of the Wireless Broadband tower and have the opportunity to consider the tower before purchasing the land.

Mr Sherry outlined that although Council could liaise with NBNC Co, an owner of property must be found to locate a proposed Wireless Broadband tower. The owners of the areas that were identified for future subdivision, were not likely to agree with NBNC Co to locate a proposed Wireless Broadband tower on their land because the tower may impact on the viability of their land development.

While other opportunities may be considered, the planning application for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower in Farmers Avenue must still be considered by Council.

5.8 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mr Mark Shaw stated that he believed that the Farmers Avenue site for the proposed Wireless Broadband tower was just the cheapest and easiest option and not the best for Boddington. Mr Shaw said that locating such a high tower in such a low location, did not make sense. There must be a better and higher location for a proposed Wireless Broadband tower in Boddington.

Mr Sherry advised the issues that the NBNC Co had outlined was with Boddington being very hilly NBNC Co needed two towers to reach the required service levels Boddington. This would be provided with one tower on the north of the town, and one on the south. Such a two way approach would ensure the best service to all residents.

5.9 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mr Ray Josland outlined that he believed that the replies that the Shire Chief Executive Officer was giving to the meeting were such that he appeared to be approving of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower's location.

Mr Sherry strongly refuted Mr Josland's claim, stating that he was using a professional approach to ensure that Council's decision on the planning application, whatever that might be, has the greatest chance of success. Mr Sherry reiterated that Council needed to deal with the planning application on the merits of the claim and if the Shire CEO was to only provide an emotional response to the planning application, this would increase the likelihood of a successful appeal to any Council decision.

5.10 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Concern was registered over the health issues that could arise from proposed Wireless Broadband tower. Current health hazards such as smoking and asbestos had once been considered safe. There was considerable belief that wireless signals, such as those from the proposed Wireless Broadband tower, may be found in the future to be a health hazard.

Cr Allert replied that Council would be guided by the latest research.

5.11 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mrs Gabe Roberts advised the meeting that local residents should include in their submissions to Council any research that they may be able to find that supported their negative approach to the proposed Wireless Broadband tower and this would allow their personal beliefs to be included.

Cr Allert supported this approach.

5.12 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Mr Ray Josland restated his opposition to the project and again called for Cr Carrotts to change his decision to permit the proposed Wireless Broadband tower to be built on his property.

5.13 Shire Support for the Boddington District High School

Mrs Gabe Roberts, in considering the stated poor relationship between the Boddington District High School (BDHS) and the Shire of Boddington, what positive moves Council was considering or would support to improve this relationship.

Cr Allert outlined a series of events from late 2011 when through the Supertowns community consultation process Council became aware of a perception in the community that the Boddington DHS did not provide a quality education service. Subsequently the Shire discussed this matter with the BDHS Principal and education department officials. In June 2012 Council formally advised the Department of Education of the community perception and sought clarification that the BDHS was operating within the department's guidelines. The Department of Education subsequently completed a review of the school, publishing a public report which is damning of the BDHS's performance. This assessment was confirmed in another report conducted by the BDHS School Council.

Mr Sherry outlined that education remained a significant factor in retaining residents in Boddington and continuing Boddington's population growth. Currently the Shire has a range of Shire facilities, including library and sporting facilities, that are leased to the BDHS. The Shire remains committed to supporting the school in improving its performance and standing in the community in the future for the benefit of Boddington.

5.14 Wireless Broadband Tower at 37 Farmers Avenue Boddington

Kevin Noonan asked if there was a role for Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer in assessing the safety of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower.

Mr Sherry advised that Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer did not have the highly specialist skills and qualifications required to assess the safety of the proposed Wireless Broadband tower. Council, as part of the community consultation, did seek comment from the Department of Health's Environmental Health office.

5.15 Boddington Early Learning Centre – Reduction in Hours

Council was asked on to comment on the proposed reduction of hours of the Boddington Early Learning Centre (ELC). The ELC is an important local service for mothers who are considering returning to work.

Mr Sherry advised that the Shire had only been advised of the change of hours and increase in fees by ELC operator CSSU at the same time parents had been. The Shire has leased the operation of the ELC to CSSU for a term of five years. Shire staff were aware of the poor financial operating position of the ELC and are investigating possible options for financial and other support to ensure the hours of operation are maximised.

Ms Anthea Patten advised that a meeting of parents was to be held at the ELC tomorrow at 5pm and that the Shire would be represented.

5.16 Main Street Appearance

Mrs Gabe Roberts, asked what Council was doing to ensure the Boddington main street was kept in the best condition. Currently there are weeds and other rubbish on vacant blocks. Ms Roberts was aware that Shire staff did do considerable clean-up work in the main street, but this did not seem to be keeping pace.

Mr Sherry advised that the majority of the vacant land and indeed the footpaths in the main street were in fact private land. While Shire staff did look to continue the work it would be helpful if some private land owners also improved the maintenance of their own property.

It was also not helpful that this year's wet spring and summer had increased the amount of weeds. The weather had also impacted on fire preventions with some land owners who had done considerable work to reduce fuel loads on property having to redo fire breaks and mowing to comply with Shire requirements.

5.17 Tullis Bridge Walk Trail

The meeting was asked when the Tullis Bridge Walk Trail would be fully operational as it is not yet passable. The trail will be a good walking trail when access will be completed.

Cr Allert advised that he thought the trail was open, but agreed that the trail will be a great facility.

5.18 Rubbish at Skate Park

The meeting was asked if a rubbish bin could be installed at the Skate Park at the Boddington Recreation Grounds. The rubbish at this site is a disgrace including beer bottles and dog faeces.

Mr Sherry stated that this area was Council's biggest trouble spot with the litter problem and vandalism damage. Mr Sherry would investigate why there was not a bin at this site and would consider installing a dog faeces bag stand if that would help.

6 CLOSURE OF MEETING:

There being no further business Cr Allert thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

These minutes were confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd January 2013.

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J. R. Allert
President