



**MINUTES
of
the Annual Meeting of Electors
Wednesday 5 February 2025**

**Shire Council Chambers
Lot 66 Railway Street,
Trayning**

Commencement: at 6.00 pm



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MINUTES

Annual Electors Meeting
Held at the Shire Council Chambers, Railway Street, Trayning Wednesday
5 February 2025 commencing at 6.00 pm

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr MA Brown, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, welcoming all Councillors, Officers and members of the public present.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

President: Cr M Brown
Councillors: Cr C Marchant (Deputy President)
Cr P Barnes
Cr C Harken
Cr M Leslie
Cr M McHugh

Chief Executive Officer: Mr John Merrick
Manager of Works: Mr P Healy

Members of the Public: Mrs M Mullins
Mrs V Knott
Mr K Reiger
Mr K Baker
Mr G Waters
Mrs S Waters
Ms H Croke
Mrs K Craig
Mr J Smith

Apologies: Cr D Naughton
Mr A Mullins

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2024 is attached to this Agenda.

Voting Requirements – Simple Majority

Moved Cr Marchant

Seconded Cr Barnes

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 5 February 2025, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried Unanimously

4 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Comment:

The Annual Report, incorporating President's and Chief Executive Officer's Reports as required, was adopted, advertised and made available for public information as required by the Local Government Act and Regulations.

Voting Requirements:
Simple majority

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr Harken

Seconded Cr McHugh

That the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024, as circulated, be received.

Carried

5 GENERAL BUSINESS as per Administration Regulations r.19

5.1 Ms H Croke

Ms Croke expressed concerns in regard to the empty houses around the town and that Council would be well served to address this as a matter of urgency. She commented favourably on some of the improvements in the amenity of the town in the recent past. Ms Croke agreed the recruitment of a new CEO would be a difficult task in the current environment and was pleased that the \$340,000 over expenditure on roadworks had been favourably resolved. She asked for information as to the financial impact of the departure of the previous CEO and the appointment of the Acting CEO. Ms Croke queried the apparent issues with the Pavillion building works, congratulated Council on its Public Health Plan and asked for assistance with obtaining a grant to assist with the centenary celebrations for St Joeseph's.

Cr Brown provided an overview of the building issues at the Pavillion which related to unsuitable building specifications making the project unviable. Cr Brown took on notice the request for financial implications surrounding the departure of the previous CEO and that the Acting CEO would research the relevant information and report to Ms Croke.

5.2 Ms S Waters

Mrs Waters advised that the Kununoppin morning tea events had re-commenced and were attracting encouraging numbers. She suggested that Council initiate a rewards program for home owners who registered and undertook beautifying work on the visuals of their property. Mrs Waters also suggested that a "meet and cuppa with Councillors" would be a good way of engaging local residents.

5.3 Mr G Waters

Mr Waters expressed concerns that dwindling numbers of volunteer's has left the Kununoppin Bushfire Brigade in a vulnerable position in that there was currently no local community volunteer to provide a service. There also appeared to be a shortage of PPE available. Mr Waters also complimented the Shire on the improvements made to the Administration Centre.

Response

The Shire President agreed to put something in the Ninghan News calling for volunteers and Cr Barnes, Chief Fire Control Officer undertook to advertise an expression of interest from Kununoppin residents to fulfill volunteer roles.

Cr McHugh thanked Mr Waters for the time and dedication he puts into the volunteer ambulance service.

5.4 Mr K Reiger

Mr Reiger advised that the departure of the Previous CEO had not been received well within the community, and sought information as to when the recruitment for a new CEO would begin. He was also disappointed with the general visual amenity of the townsite in Trayning and the future of the footpaths in Kununoppin and that he, and the community would appreciate more communication from Council on future plans and projects. Mr Reiger stated that he had concerns regarding statutory requirements relating to compliance, local laws and sustainability, and the impact these issues would have residents and rates into the future.

Response

The Shire President advised that Council would be resolving its recruitment process at the February meeting and which would include discussion on the position description, selection criteria and the appointment of an independent person on the selection panel, in accordance with statutory obligations. Cr Brown expressed a shared concern at the level of compliance becoming a real burden on smaller Local Governments throughout the State, particularly the adverse affect on sustainability. The Acting CEO provided an overview of the recruitment process and local laws, which are currently being provided for public comment.

5.5 Mrs V Knott

Mrs Knott reported that the exercise group was enjoying participation of 9 people with a capacity for up to 18 being the objective.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and declared the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.