



Shire of Dardanup

MINUTES

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

Held

29 January 2020

At

Shire of Dardanup
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive – EATON

This document is available in alternative formats such as:
~ Large Print
~ Electronic Format [disk or emailed]
Upon request.

MISSION STATEMENT

“Provide effective leadership in encouraging balanced growth and development of the Shire while recognizing the diverse needs of our communities.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS.....	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED	1
2.1	Attendance.....	1
2.2	Apologies.....	2
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES -	2
3.1	Annual Electors Meeting Held 23 January 2019.....	2
3.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes.....	3
4	RECEIPT OF ANNUAL REPORT – 2018/19	3
5	QUESTIONS OR MOTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AT THE PRESIDENT’S DISCRETION	3
5.1	Mrs Sue Buckley – Regarding the Cleanaway Site on Banksia Road	3
5.2	Mrs Jenny Trigwell – Regarding the Cleanaway and Critsal/Tronox Sites	4
5.3	Mr Glen Hutchinson – Regarding Rate Increases	4
5.4	Mr Oren White – Regarding Rate Increases and Councillor Behaviour	5
5.5	Mr Merv Hart – Regarding Rate Increases	5
6	CLOSURE OF MEETING	6

SHIRE OF DARDANUP

MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY 2020, AT SHIRE OF DARDANUP - ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM.

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS
----------	---

The Presiding Member, Cr. M T Bennett declared the meeting open at 6.30pm, welcomed those in attendance and referred to the Disclaimer, Acknowledgement of Country, Emergency Procedure and the Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility on behalf of Councillors and Officers:

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Dardanup wishes to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. In doing this, we recognise and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region by recognising the strength, resilience and capacity of Wardandi people in this land.

Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility

Councillors and Officers of the Shire of Dardanup collectively declare that we will duly, faithfully, honestly and with integrity fulfil the duties of our respective office and positions for all the people in the district according to the best of our judgement and ability. We will observe the Shire's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to ensure efficient, effective and orderly decision making within this forum.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Chairperson who will direct you to the safest exit route. Once outside, please proceed to the Assembly Area points located to the western side of the front office car park near the skate park and gazebo where we will meet (and complete a roll call).

2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
----------	--

2.1 Attendance

Elected Members:

Cr. Michael Bennett	-	Elected Member
Cr. Janice Dow	-	Elected Member
Cr. Tyrrell Gardiner	-	Elected Member
Cr. Luke Davies	-	Elected Member
Cr. Mark Hutchinson	-	Elected Member
Cr. Peter Robinson	-	Elected Member
Cr. Carmel Boyce	-	Elected Member
Cr. Patricia Perks	-	Elected Member
Cr. Stacey Gillespie	-	Elected Member

Council Staff:

Mr André Schönfeldt	-	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Phil Anastasakis	-	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms Susan Oosthuizen	-	Director Sustainable Development
Mr Luke Botica	-	Director Infrastructure
Ms Cathy Lee	-	Manager Governance & HR
Mrs Marisa Blandford	-	Executive Support Officer
Mr Sudi Mishra	-	Manager Information Services
Mr Ray Pryce	-	Accountant

Electors/Members of the Public [Non electors]:

There were approximately 21 Electors present, and 1 Member of the Public.

2 Members of the Media.

2.2 Apologies

None.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting Held 23 January 2019

The Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on the 23 January 2019 are provided for confirmation as follows:

MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY – 23 JANUARY 2019, COMMENCING AT 6.00PM AT THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP – ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON.

RECEIVED

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING RESOLUTION

AEM 01-20 MOVED - Cr. P S Robinson SECONDED - Cr. C N Boyce

THAT the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 23 January 2019, be confirmed as true and correct subject to no corrections.

CARRIED

5.2 Mrs Jenny Trigwell – Regarding the Cleanaway and Cristal/Tronox Sites

Question – *Given the lack of suitability and continual community opposition can the Council remove currently undeveloped locations, including the Cristal/Tronox property and Lot 1 Banksia Road from future use for waste disposal and waste recycling? If not, why not?*

Response:

Director Sustainable Development, Mrs Susan Oosthuizen - We are in the process of reviewing Local Town Planning Scheme 9, part of that is whether will we undertake a waste precinct or not. Community Consultation will be part of that review. We are hoping to have the draft Local Planning Scheme 9 review back to Council by midyear for consideration.

5.3 Mr Glen Hutchinson – Regarding Rate Increases

Statement – *On 31 May 2018, Mr Mark Chester said in relation to his retirement “The move marks the end of a 22 year period of service while presiding over an organisation that has grown from a staff group of about 15 and rate-payer population of approximately 7,000 to staff of 110 full-time equivalents and a doubling of the population.” This is a 100% increase in the population and a 673% increase in the number of staff.*

My personal rates have increased from \$386.00 in 1999 to \$2,015.16, an increase of \$1,629.16. This is an increase of 522% when the CPI over this time has increased by 46.7%. If CPI had been used my rates this year would have been \$650.70 (using the CPI calculator provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and taking into account the compounding nature of the value). Therefore I am paying an additional \$1,364.46 over and above the real value of what my rates were in 1999.

Growth seems to come at the cost of the existing ratepayers. This comment is supported by comments made by the Chief Executive Officer on page 22 of the Council Agenda under annual percentage increases.

The future of the Shire is at risk. The ratios are only average, yet the increase in rates is anything but average. These ratios are nothing to write home to Mum about. This demonstrates the point that if the Shire didn't continue its high rate increase strategy, the Shire itself is at risk, as any decrease, which I (and other ratepayers are advocating) could see a marked deterioration in these ratios, unless attention is paid to the Shire's expenditure. The reduction in expenditure from the Shire has to come from within. Increases like this are unsustainable. This is supported by the Chief Executive Officer's comments on page 23 of the Council Agenda.

The inflation rate even as at today is only 1.8%. The Local Government Cost Index as at 30 September 2019 was 1.6%. Either way, they are well below the percentage increases the Shire has been increasing rates by, and well below the future increases shows in the Long Term Strategic Financial Plan. This comment is supported by the Chief Executive Officer's comments on page 20 of the Council Agenda. He knows we have been suffering, yet it seems to have gone unnoticed by previous councils.

I am a supporter of the Shire of Dardanup, but the Shire needs to refocus and not try to be everything to everybody.

It is not the Shire's job to replace services the State or Federal Government withdraw. It is not the Shire's job to compete with private enterprise and tie up capital and cash flow in that enterprise that could be used in other areas of the Shire.

This is not about the Councillors. I have total respect for them and the time they commit to their duties. It is not about the staff who work at the Shire, as I have yet to come across anyone who takes the time to go to work and seek to do a bad job. This is all about the ratepayers, the ratepayers like me who have not attended an Annual Meeting for years and allowed this situation to be created. This is about the ratepayers who have sustained exorbitant increases in their rates all in the name of expansion of the Shire, where this seems to have fallen on the existing ratepayers, rather than people who have created the expansion.

I see this as being a crossroad for the Dardanup Shire. We are due to commit \$16 million for a new premises, and about \$7.7 million in loans to fund those premises, and a further \$1 million to the Dardanup premises. Before that commitment is made, it would be an ideal opportunity to review the Shire's situation, with a view of seeing whether the Shire is viable based on CPI increases, and if not, look at amalgamating the Shire with one or more of the Shires that surround us. This would make the amalgamation more attractive, as there would be no Admin Buildings to consider.

Question -

Mr. President, my question to you is are you committed to keeping rates at CPI or in line with the Local Government Price Index? Are you prepared to commit the Administration of the Shire to a line by line look at its expenditure, to get a clear picture of its underlying viability so ratepayers can make an informed decision in relation to its future, including the options of amalgamation? Are you prepared to delay any further expenditure on the Administration Buildings and the hiring of staff until the underlying viability has been determined?

Response:

Shire President, Cr. M T Bennett – We understand the concerns and we will be looking at everything when we review the budget and set the rates. There is a lot that needs to be and will be taken into consideration.

5.4 Mr Oren White – Regarding Rate Increases and Councillor Behaviour

Statement - Where it all falls down is within the Shire of Dardanup's Mission Statement, which makes no mention of Sustainable Development. I am also a long term supporter of the Shire, but in 9 years we will be paying more than 50% more for our rates. That is not sustainable. I urge Councillors to become more aware of that for your community.

I would also like to comment on the behaviour of one councillor at a the previous portion of the Council Meeting tonight that I have observed, the conduct observed was disrespectful of fellow Councillors and should be followed up.

Response:

Shire President, Cr. M T Bennett – Thanked Mr White for his comments and advised that he would follow up on his observation.

5.5 Mr Merv Hart – Regarding Rate Increases

Statement – At the moment, Council spends 53% of it's rate revenue on employment costs. The average across the state is only 43%..If you made an inroad into reducing the projected employment costs down to the average 43%, the difference would be approximately \$1.56 million in spend and there would be no need to increase rates. Get rid of the services that aren't required. The community is on its knees, in the past 10 years rates have gone up 96% wages only 20%. Its simply unsustainable. I urge Council to look closely at not replacing redundancies and making the ship a bit tighter.

Council projections are 4% per annum for the next four years, when compounded this equates to 20% over the next four years. I suggest to you that the community wage increase over this period will be 0%, which shows Council are getting further out of kilt with their community.

Response:

Shire President, Cr. M T Bennett – Thanked Mr Hart for his comments.

6 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Presiding Officer declared the meeting closed [6.56pm].