



SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD
WEDNESDAY
15 JANUARY 2014**

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2014 AT 4:32 PM

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SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers on WEDNESDAY, 15 January 2014 at 4:32 pm

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1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND WELCOME**

The President declared the meeting open at 4:32 pm.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

COUNCIL

Councillors
(Town Ward)

(West Ward)

(Central Ward)

S B Pollard (President)
D A Hughes
R M Head (at 4:38pm)
D G Beresford
T M Little
A W Llewellyn
J E Williams
U Rumjantsev

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Manager Corporate Services
Executive Manager Development Services
Executive Manager Community Services
Executive Manager Engineering Services
PA Executive Manager Corporate Services

J B Whiteaker
D R Gobbart
P B Steven
J McGready
C D Kleynhans
A C Maxwell

ELECTORS/RESIDENTS

Paul Brown
Stan Malinowski
Preston S Smith

Peter Hammond
Jayne Hammond
Barbara Silvester

Timothy Williams (Avon Valley Advocate)

3. APOLOGIES

Belle Moore
C B Hunt

Cr R W Tinetti
Cr K D Saunders

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Moved: Cr AW Llewellyn
Seconded: Cr TM Little**

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 December 2012 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 13/0

5. AGENDA ITEMS

Cr R M Head entered the Chambers at 4:38pm.

5.1 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2012/2013 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Mr Whiteaker outlined that the financial report of the Shire of Northam for the period ended 30 June 2013 has been properly drawn up to present fairly the financial position of the Shire of Northam at 30 June 2013. It was stated that that the results of the operations for the financial year ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulations under this Act.

RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr D A Hughes
Seconded: Cr A W Llewelyn**

That the Shire of Northam Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2013, as presented, be received.

Carried 14/0

5.2 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Mr Whiteaker outlined that there were no issues found in relation to statutory non-compliance or weaknesses with the audit. There were no non-compliance matters which needed to be raised or addressed in relation to the Management Report. It was stated that Council has systems and processes in place which are working and Council complies with required regulations and standards.

RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr D A Hughes
Seconded: Cr U Rumjantsev**

That the Shire of Northam Auditor's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2013, be adopted.

Carried 14/0

5.3 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Cr Pollard presented his report to Council outlining the number of projects which were undertaken in the 2012/2013 financial year.

RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr T M Little
Seconded: Cr R M Head**

That the President’s Report, for the year ended 30 June 2013 as presented, be received.

Carried 14/0

5.4 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr D A Hughes
Seconded: Cr R M Head**

That the Chief Executive Officer’s Report, for the year ended 30 June 2013 as presented in the Annual Report, be received.

Carried 14/0

6. GENERAL BUSINESS OR OTHER BUSINESS AT THE DICRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OR AS APPROVED BY THE ELECTOS PRESENT

6.1 MINSON AVENUE DRAINAGE – MR STAN MALINOWSKI

Question: What are the Shire’s processes in relation to responding to correspondence?

Answer: Mr Jason Whiteaker advised that a response to questions at Council meetings (including Electors meetings) will be provided at the time if possible, however in the event a response is not able to be provided at the meeting a written response would be provided in approximately 7 days.

Question: What is the current status with the drainage issue along Minson Avenue? Mr Malinowski outlined that he has a business situated along this road and is having increased difficulty in relation to insurance purposes. This was raised at the previous Annual Electors Meeting. He stated that this issue has been ongoing for approximately six years and would like an idea of when this issue can be resolved.

Answer: Mr Whiteaker advised that Council is aware of the issues associated with storm water management in the Minson Avenue area and had recently undertaken assessment of the existing stormwater infrastructure, which is a precursor to developing a strategy to assist in mitigating the issues. It is expected that the design work will be completed in February/March, which once completed will provide Council with a range of options and works which will be implemented subject to the availability of financial resources.

6.2 MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – WOODLEY FARM DRIVE – MR PETER HAMMOND

Question: Mr Hammond advised that he would like to maintain the public open space/entry statement into the Woodley Farm Estate (intersecting Throssell and East Street). Mr Hammond advised the meeting that he made a similar request at the last electors meeting at which time it was indicated that he would be able to maintain the area, however the Council had subsequent to this sprayed the area for weed control which had caused damage to the work that had been undertaken by Mr Hammond. Mr Hammond requested that the Shire not spray public open space at the Woodley Farm entrance way. In many instances these areas are being sprayed by Council, stating that these are natural areas and by spraying these areas it is not allowing them to revegetate. It was requested that it was noted in the minutes that he offer his services to Council by maintaining the entrance way to Woodley Farm Drive at no charge to Council.

Answer: Mr Whiteaker advised that this matter will be directed to Engineering staff for their attention.

6.3 BUSHFIRE HAZARD AND LAND UNTIDYNESS – MR PRESTON SMITH

Question: What is the Shire doing in relation to hazardous properties within the Shire? He referred to the Shire of Northam's Firebreak Order 2013/2014 brochure which outlines that all inflammable material must be removed and remaining vegetation except living trees, shrubs and plants is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 7.5cm. He stated that he owns a property on Gordon Street, Northam and raised the issue of a nearby block which he believes is unacceptable in accordance with our brochure.

Answer: Cr Beresford stated that he believes we need to emphasise the responsibility of maintain properties to absentee landlords.

Mr Whiteaker commended the Rangers as he believed that they have done an outstanding job in relation to fire hazard reduction. He also outlined that they have a number of plans in place to ensure the efficiency of undertaking these checks. It was stated that both Council and Residents have assisted in this. Mr Whiteaker advised that he would arrange for an onsite meeting with Mr Preston Smith to discuss his particular concern.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 5:00pm.

“I certify that the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 15 January 2014 have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”

_____ President

_____ Date