



Shire of Northam

Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
HELD
WEDNESDAY
17 DECEMBER 2014**

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ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING TO BE HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2014

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**Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers on
WEDNESDAY, 17 December 2014 at 4:34 pm**

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The President declared the meeting open at 4:34pm.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3. ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL

Councillors
(Town Ward)

S B Pollard (President)

D G Beresford

R W Tinetti

D A Hughes

(West Ward)

T M Little

A W Llewellyn

(Central Ward)

U Rumjantsev

J E Williams

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

J B Whiteaker

Executive Manager Engineering Services

C D Kleynhans

Executive Manager Community Services

R Rayson

Executive Manager Development Services

P B Steven

Executive Manager Corporate Services

D R Gobbart

Project Manager Community Infrastructure

C B Hunt

Executive Assistant to the CEO

A C Maxwell

ELECTORS/RESIDENTS

Mr Stan Mailinowski

Mrs Genny Budas

Mrs Belle Moore

Mr Mike Whittington

Mr Ian Fullerton

Mr Reg Tipple

4. APOLOGIES

Councillor (East Ward)

K D Saunders

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5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hughes
Seconded: Cr Rumjantsev

That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held Wednesday, 15 January 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 14/0

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013/2014 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Rumjantsev
Seconded: Cr Llewellyn

That the Shire of Northam Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 14/0

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

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Llewellyn
Seconded: Cr Hughes

That the Shire of Northam Auditor's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2014, be adopted.

CARRIED 14/0

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6.3 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Little
Seconded: Cr Tinetti

That the President's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2014 as presented, be received.

CARRIED 14/0

6.4 RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Hughes
Seconded: C Rumjantsev

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2014 as presented in the Annual Report, be received.

CARRIED 14/0

7. GENERAL BUSINESS OR OTHER BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OR AS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS PRESENT

7.1 BUSHFIRE HAZARD AND LAND UNTIDYNESS – BELLE MOORE

Question: Mrs Belle Moore wanted to follow up on the issue of bushfire hazards in respect to firebreaks and land untidiness, including verges. She stated that this is still an issue within the Shire and it is unpleasant to see the untidiness throughout the Shire. The matter of verge maintenance was also raised.

Mr Ian Fullerton raised that he does not believe that you can measure whether a firebreak has been completed by using a camera and that this is something that needs to be completed by an assessment process.

Mr Reg Tipple advised that drive by inspections do not work due to trees blocking the full view. He also raised that the issue in respect to people planting trees on firebreaks needs to be addressed. He suggested that this could be something outlined and made clear to

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the public and developers when a new development or planning application etc is submitted.

Answer: The Chief Executive Officer responded to Mrs Moore and advised that Council are aware of this issue and confirmed that the Shire's Ranger Services department do undertake inspections and issue warnings and infringements accordingly.

The Executive Manager Development Services advised that all fire break inspections had been completed in the rural and town site areas, which is positive. Unfortunately a large quantity of people had received warnings. He stated that there has been approximately 140 work orders and approximately 100 infringements issued.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that an experienced external bush fire control officer has been sourced to undertake assessments. This had not only reduced the workloads of the Shire Rangers, but had also resulted in an improvement in the timeframes associated with the inspections.

The Executive Manager Development Services further advised that the trees are to be planted on the fence line and this is something that staff try and monitor, however sometimes this task can be difficult due to self-seeding trees.

The Chief Executive Officer responded to the matter of verge maintenance and footpaths. He advised that staff are very mindful of this issue. In relation to Council maintaining all verges on a regular basis, he advised that it is simply not feasible, practical, or cost effective.

7.2 MORRELL STREET PARK, WEST NORTHAM – JENNY BUDAS

Question: Can some sand be placed under the playground equipment at the Morrell Street Park in West Northam?

Mrs Jenny Budas stated that there have been some works completed at the playground recently, however there is a section which has not been completed. She raised that the holidays are approaching and believed it would be nice to have some sand for the children who utilise this playground over this period.

Answer: The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Shire of Northam Parks and Gardens staff have made assessments in respect to the priority level of works. The Executive Manager of Engineering Services advised that staff were aware of the issue raised and that ongoing dialogue had occurred with Mrs Buddas. It is the intent to address a number of parks at one time, which would result in economies of scale/cost savings.

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Question: Mrs Budas asked who the Shire’s contractor is for pruning the trees. She stated that this service would normally be undertaken by Randle Beavis.

Answer: Executive Manager of Engineering Services advised that the Shire is currently undertaking procurement for these services in accordance with Council policy. He advised that trees are to be maintained in accordance with a standard set by Western Power which undertakes an audit and notifies the Shire of Northam of any priority areas.

7.3 MINSON AVENUE DRAINAGE – STAN MALINOWSKI

Question: Mr Stan Malinowksi asked what the current status is in respect to the drainage along Minson Avenue, Northam. He stated that he raised this issue at the previous Annual Electors meeting held on 15 January 2014.

Answer: The Chief Executive Officer advised that this is an ongoing issue that the Shire is mindful of. He advised that Shire has submitted a grant application through the Wheatbelt Development Commission for an amount of \$1,000,000.00. The Chief Executive Officer stated that the progress of this issue will depend on the outcome of the funding application. If this is unsuccessful, Council will need to determine the level of priority and whether this is something that will be funded through Council.

8. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 5:06pm.

“I certify that the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 17 December 2014 have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”

_____ President

_____ Date