

# Kojonup



SHIRE OF KOJONUP

## MINUTES

### ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

16 August 2022

At Sports Complex commencing 6.00pm

**1. WELCOME**

The Shire President, Cr Radford, declared the meeting open at 6.05pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points, and outlined the procedures of the meeting.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Shire of Kojonup acknowledges the first nations people of Australia as the traditional custodians of this land and; in particular, the Keneang people of the Noongar nation upon whose land we meet.

We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

**2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Cr N Radford	Shire President
Cr P Webb	Deputy Shire President
Cr F Webb	
Cr Gale	
Cr Singh	
Cr R Bilney	
Cr A Egerton-Warburton	

**STAFF**

Grant Thompson	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Ciara O'Regan	Manager Springhaven
Robert Jehu	Manager Regulatory Services
Heather Marland	Senior Finance Officer
Emily Sleight	Sport and Recreation Officer
Jill Watkin	Manager The Kodja Place, Tourism & Marketing

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Aaron McCarthy  
Frank Pritchard  
Melvin Hettner  
Jill Mathwin  
Pat Bunny  
Kath Mathwin

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**APOLOGIES**

Cr Cindy Wieringa	
Craig McVee	Manager Works and Services
Frank and Jill House	Community Members
Suzanne Pritchard	Community Member
Chris Evans	Community Member

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**MEETING RESOLUTION**

Moved Jill Mathwin, seconded Kath Mathwin

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held 12 October 2021 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

4. REPORTS

**Shire President**

The Shire President, Cr Ned Radford, elaborated on his report as contained within the Annual Report.

**MEETING RESOLUTION**

Moved Frank Pritchard, Seconded Pat Bunny

That the Shire of Kojonup President's Report for 2020/2021 be received.

**CARRIED**

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Grant Thompson, introduced team members and elaborated further on his report as contained within the Annual Report.

**MEETING RESOLUTION**

Moved Kath Mathwin, Seconded Jill Mathwin

That the Shire of Kojonup Chief Executive Officer's Report for 2020/2021 be received.

**CARRIED**

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/OTHER BUSINESS OF A GENERAL NATURE

5.1 Questions Taken on Notice from Previous Meeting

Nil

## 5.2 An Opportunity for Questions, Feedback or Items to be raised from the Floor

Questions from the floor included:

Mr Melvin Hettner wished to bring to Council's attention the Boyanup cattle sale facilities in the Shire of Capel. Mr Hettner raised concerns regarding lack of government funds to support them, lack of improvements to animal welfare concerns and the lack of a truck wash at the facility. Mr Hettner continued regarding concerns about Foot and Mouth Disease, and the impact this would have on the Boyanup facility without adequate hygiene provisions.

Cr Radford acknowledged Mr Hettner's concerns and queried the relevance to the Shire of Kojonup.

Mr Hettner raised that there are significant numbers of cattle in the area, as well as east of Katanning, and that Katanning should have had provision for cattle sale facilities in their new saleyards. Mr Hettner suggested that Kojonup could also be used in the same way.

The CEO advised that the Kojonup saleyards are remaining closed unless there is significant interest and funds in facilitating the upgrades required for them to meet the required standards and environmental health regulations.

Mrs Pat Bunny queried what the Shire of Kojonup's main expenses were for the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

The CEO responded with the following, in no particular order:

- Road maintenance and repair
- Labour is one of the largest expenses the Shire has
- Swimming Pool facility
- Springhaven Lodge
- The Kodja Place precinct

Mrs Bunny queried the occupancy currently at Springhaven.

Manager Springhaven advised that currently 20 of the 22 beds were occupied. Due to low staffing levels, no further admissions of new residents would be accepted until the staff situation changes, as the priority will be on continuing the high level of care for existing residents.

Mrs Kath Mathwin queried if the Shire has any level of control or input into landowners clearing vegetation from road verges and parkland-cleared agricultural land.

The CEO advised that landowners of agricultural properties are legally entitled to clear a maximum of 1.5m of vegetation from their surveyed property boundary. The CEO acknowledged that there has recently been unapproved clearing over and above that, in the Shire, which has been reported to the Department of Water and Environmental

Regulation (DWER). DWER is responsible for investigating and proceeding to prosecute with any penalties to landowners for unapproved clearing. Some agricultural landowners are beginning the process of re-vegetation.

Mrs K Mathwin enquired if the Shire could be more proactive in providing advice on this issue to landowners.

The CEO advised that the Manager Regulatory Services is currently working on information sessions and the provision of information leaflets via social media, Shire publications and the Shire website.

The Manager Regulatory Services advised that overspray via aerial means affecting vegetation and over clearing are both serious concerns and, although situations are being reported to DWER, there has been, so far, a minimal response.

Mrs K Mathwin enquired as to whether the Shire had considered the construction of a dog cemetery.

Cr Radford advised he would take the question on notice, with the Manager Regulatory Services advising that the burial of dogs is allowed on the owner's property, and the Shire also offers low-cost transportation of pet remains to a pet cemetery in Perth for interment.

Mrs K Mathwin enquired if Council had any recommendations to encourage more attendance at Annual Electors Meetings.

The CEO asked those in attendance if they had any suggestions for this purpose. Mrs Jill Mathwin suggested that there is generally a higher turnout if there are contentious issues in the community. The CEO advised that cause and effect of different mediums for community input may have had a positive effect on community sentiment towards the Shire and, if community feel they are being listened to, attendance at an Annual Electors Meeting may not be seen as important.

Mr Hettner advised he feels face to face meetings like this are still very relevant and preferable to those that rely on online or telephone facilities.

Mr Hettner enquired as to when the next Council election is due to be held.

The CEO advised that the next election for Council will be held in October 2023.

Mrs J Mathwin thanked the Councillors, staff and the CEO for the work they have done over the past 12 months, especially during COVID and with staff shortages. Mrs J Mathwin noted an appreciation for an increase in inclusiveness of community and of volunteers.

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6.41pm.

**7. ATTACHMENTS**

Annual Report & Annual Financial Report 2020/2021

UNCONFIRMED