



SHIRE OF KOJONUP

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

19 March 2019

At Sports Complex commencing 5.00pm

1. WELCOME

The Shire President, Cr Fleay, declared the meeting open at 5.01pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points and outline the procedures of the meeting.

The Shire of Kojonup acknowledges the first nations people of Australia as the Traditional custodians of this land

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Cr Ronnie Fleay	Shire President
Cr Ned Radford	
Cr John Benn	
Cr Graeme Hobbs	
Cr Jill Mathwin	
Cr Ian Pedler	
Cr Sandra Pedler	
Cr Judith Warland	

STAFF

Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Anthony Middleton	Manager of Corporate & Community Services (MCCS)
Craig McVee	Manager Works & Services (MWS)
Zahra Shirazee	Manager Community Development & Tourism (5.50pm) (MCD&T)
Lorraine Wyatt	Executive Assistant (EA)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

APOLOGIES

Sue Northover	Manager Aged Care Services
Jim McGregor	
Suzanne Pritchard	
Wendy Thorn	
Neville Matthews	
Rosie Hewson	

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Pam McGregor	William Harvey
Robert Sexton	Elaine Gibbs
Marion Quarrel	Linda Bilney
Lyn Boys	Glenys Hill
Wendy Anderson	Barbara Hobbs

Gerry McGuire
Heather Marland
Laurie Prandi
Sandy Jackson
Melvin Hettner
Jill House
Frankie Trouchet
Pat Bunny

Keith McGuire
Frank Pritchard
Glenys Russell
Vic Rodda
Peter Anderson
Frank House
Jenny Matthews
Eric Wright

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MEETING DECISION

Moved Cr Benn, seconded Pam McGregor that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held 15 May 2018, be accepted.

CARRIED

4. REPORTS

4.1. Shire President

The Shire President, Cr Ronnie Fleay, elaborated further on her report as contained within the Annual Report.

4.2. Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Rick Mitchell-Collins, elaborated further on his report as contained within the Annual Report.

5. 2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING DECISION

Moved Cr Mathwin, seconded Cr Ian Pedler that the Shire of Kojonup 2017/2018 Annual Report, as circulated, be received.

CARRIED

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/OTHER BUSINESS OF A GENERAL NATURE

6.1. Questions Taken on Notice from Previous Meeting

Nil.

6.2. An Opportunity for Questions, Feedback or Items to be Raised from the Floor

Pam McGregor

The CEO has spoken in his report about the lighting of the Potts statue in Apex Park. When will this happen?

Response

The Shire, through Paul Retallack, has looked at a number of options to achieve the best outcome, has met on site with Potts Statue committee members, and we can advise that works will start as soon as the contractors can be organised.

Frank Pritchard

The railway station looks good now that it is painted. When will the tourist rail open again?

Response

The issue with the railway lies with Office of National Rail Safety. They do not differentiate between a national railway and a tourist operator. Council has not gained traction around the regulatory requirements as to date they have refused to budge.

Barbara Hobbs

Will the pool steps be installed for next summer?

Response

Unfortunately, there was some obstacles with the installation however I am advised by the pool manager that this has now been resolved and that the steps will be installed in time for the next pool season.

Linda Bilney

There are issues with access directly from the hockey oval which are unacceptable.

Response

There is ramp access required as access is not available directly onto the hockey field and this has been noted. This will be addressed and a small ramp may be an issue our Men's Shed can assist with.

Linda Bilney

This was very poor planning.

Melvin Hettner

I would like to make a suggestion for trucks requiring a heavy haulage route from Blackwood Road to Katanning Road, past the cemetery. I would like Council to consider making Soldier Road the designated route (up past the cemetery), as this gives greater access and it is much easier turning onto Albany highway from this route when turning left. There is already a truck bay in place along with food and is more convenient.

Response

Alternative options were discussed with Main Roads however they have ruled out any western route and will only consider eastern options.

Melvin Hettner

Why do we need their permission? Just put a sign up and allow it.

Response

Currently there is nothing to stop trucks using this route. While this may seem a simple option, sign posting this as an alternate heavy haulage route would create other issues which would need to be addressed such as suitable turning points/road widening to get back onto Albany Highway, capacity of culvert to cope with increased heavy traffic etc. It would also direct heavy traffic past the Independent Living Units and hospital.

Barbara Hobbs

There are issues with motorists parking in the wrong place at the intersection of Albany Highway and Broomehill Road which are quite dangerous. Vehicles are often parked there. Perhaps 'no parking' signage is needed?

Response

Thank you for letting us know and this will be raised with Main Roads.

Pat Bunny

It is very difficult to hear what is being said when sitting at the back of the room in Council meetings. Can you please get a speaker and microphone so that everyone can hear you?

Response

I apologise for that. The Council Chambers needs an upgrade, and this is going to be considered as part of the planning.

Frank Pritchard

I believe that RV's staying in (Benn Parade) are detrimental to the Caravan Park. They take business away from it.

Response

It is acknowledged that there may be some impact however it may also be detrimental to other businesses in town if we did not provide an RV dump point. Those visitors stay for short periods and utilise other business in town. They spend money in places such as IGA, Black Cockatoo and other businesses while they are here. If we did not provide

that option those visitors would not stay. The RV network is extensive and word would soon get out to avoid Kojonup and keep moving on their travels to the next RV Friendly town.

It is a matter of marketing and promotion of our town. If we don't provide it, visitors will look elsewhere.

Glenys Russell

I would like to add to that response. The previous proprietor of the caravan park, Carol, told me that she was in favour of the RV site and even reported increased figures when this was first done.

Lyn Boys

I disagree. People are pitching tents late at night and they don't pay. There are vehicles willy nilly all over the place and often stay up to three days with washing lies strewn everywhere.

Response

Perhaps there are times when some don't pay however most do the right thing and there is often money slipped under the door at The Kodja Place. It is also patrolled by Council officers; I suspect that it may not occur as often as it seems. We have improved signage and only self-contained vehicles are permitted.

Jenny Matthews

The independent living units (the older section) used to have personal distress alarms which were connected to Springhaven but this has been disconnected. Why? Many of the residents may not have families and there is a concern for them living on their own. I am upset that the system is gone as things can happen.

Response

This was a legal matter of compliance for Springhaven. When the alarms went off, staff were required to leave Springhaven which could not happen.

Also, they are in fact "Independent" living units. If residents require personal distress alarms, they are advised upon application that they must provide this for themselves.

Response Provided by the CEO

There is a list of people that the residents can call, and I am one of them. In fact, I am pretty sure I am first on the list.

Jenny Matthews

Are residents aware of this? I think it needs to be communicated to them.

Response Provided by the CEO

I will take that on board as Manager Aged Care Services did prepare a newsletter for residents.

Kath Mathwin

I have two questions. Firstly, while I like the cover of the annual Report, I think there needs to be more information provided such as naming the people and some information telling what it is about.

Secondly, I would like to say that there is now regrowth of Tagasaste on roadside in areas where it was previously eradicated. It is disappointing as this need to be managed and I was considering doing this myself, I am happy to contribute.

Response

Thank you for your comments regarding the Annual Report, we can certainly add the names and explanations to the report to tell the story better.

As for the regrowth of Tagasaste, it will be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration as programs of eradication do need follow up management.

Frankie Trouchet

I would like to respond to Jenny Matthews and just let you know that I have been advised that the personal responder alarms don't work with NBN.

Glenys Russell

Yes, they do.

Frankie Trouchet

I have two questions. Firstly, it has been a long time since we have had a preventative burn in town. The Fire Marshall says there is a lack of preventative burning. Grasses are slashed and left on the ground along with honkey nuts. When will it all be burned?

Secondly, is there a plan with emergency services to evaluate vulnerable areas such as Springhaven?

Response

The Shire conducting town burning was put on hold many years ago. This was run by the brigades and not the Shire.

Emergency plans are definitely in place.

Response from the CEO

There is an emergency management plan in place at Springhaven and they conduct drills regularly.

Kath Mathwin

The cost of The Kodja Place is reducing. Can you explain how this has occurred?

Response

I don't have those exact figures on hand but can confirm there has been a reduction in costs including reduced water costs for the rose maze.

Response from the CEO

Thank you. That's an important question. The costs have been allocated more directly across the various components in our financial reports giving a better indication of expenditure against Tourism, Area Promotion, Events and Heritage/Culture. The income stream needs to be reviewed and increased.

Eric Wright

Can you tell us about the Black Cockatoo? We need a good news story please.

Response

Things are going well. The new lessees have requested BYO provisions as a way of integrating with The Kodja Place and events. The Stephen Michaels montage has been installed and there is increased patronage which increases community linkage.

Laurie Prandi

The Cemetery gets untidy sometimes. Also, can spraying be done at the right time please before the grass goes to seed?

Response

Absolutely

Response provided by the CEO

Yes, it has been poor timing and has added cost. Often this occurs due to wind or rain that interrupts the planned spraying program.

Lynn Boys

I want to know about the toilets at The Kodja Place. Why do we have to pay to use them and who cleans them? People have been told they have to pay or go to the park toilets.

Response

The Shire cleans them. It's disappointing if that's what is being said. That's not intended to be the case. We encourage them to make a gold coin donation if possible and that is all. We don't make anyone pay. It is a request only not a requirement. Unfortunately, the rammed earth walls at KP continue to fail and have been since the first two years of build, this is a problem in the ladies' toilet and will need repairing once budget allocations have been agreed.

Linda Bilney

The asbestos fence was damaged when the new fence was installed and there is now exposed asbestos fibres on the Day Care Centre side.

Response

This matter was included in the budget review and is in the process of being addressed.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6.13pm.

8. ATTACHMENTS

Annual Report & Annual Financial Report 2017/2018



Presiding Member

8 DECEMBER 2020
Date