

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

Kojonup



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

MINUTES

10 APRIL 2019

MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 10 APRIL 2019

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MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

In the absence of Presiding Member – Cr Ned Radford and Cr John Benn the meeting elected Mr Digby Stretch to chair the meeting. Mr Stretch declared the meeting open at 7:33pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Mr Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) (Zulu 1)
Mr Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (Zulu 2)
Mr Ross Fryer-Smith	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer (Zulu 3)
Mr Digby Stretch	President - Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Denise Berryman	Secretary - Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger/Building Maintenance Coordinator
Mr Bob Francis	Kojonup Bushfire Brigade Member

GUESTS

Mr Murray Gibbs	Bushfire Member and former Zulu
Mr John Binns	Secretary – Qualeup Bush Fire Brigade

APOLOGIES

Mr Ned Radford	Councillor (Presiding Member)
Mr John Benn	Councillor
Mr Myles Reid	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer (Zulu 4)
Mr Robert Cowie	Administration/Regulatory Officer
Mr Daniel Campbell	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mr Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

3. SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

5. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE DECISION

02/19 *Moved Tony Fisher, seconded Roger House that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Bushfire Advisory Committee held 13 February 2019 be confirmed as a true record.*

CARRIED 7/0

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS by the Presiding Member without discussion

Digby expressed his appreciation to past president of the Kojonup Bushfire Association – Geoff Gale, Kojonup Zulu’s capably lead by Tony Fisher and to all our Brigades and members for their efforts this fire season.

8. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

10. STATUS REPORTS

10.1 **Emergency Services Levy Update**

ACTION: Matter deferred in the absence of Mr Cowie as CEO did not have any briefing notes for the meeting.

10.2 **Fire Signs**

CEO outlined the Townscape Committee’s decision to move towards two digital signs that would be erected prior to the next bushfire season once 2019/20 budget adopted in July 2019. These signs will be able to be utilised to advertise other local content throughout the year.

It was suggested that the Firebreak Notice be handed out with the Rotary Calendar and also the dates be printed on the calendar. CEO advised that restricted etc., dates were also being included in “Resident Information” packs and on social media.

ACTION: CEO to ensure Rob Cowie investigates and liaises with Rotary Club of Kojonup, noting that Kojonup Lions Club also undertake a similar initiative.

10.3 Bushfire Maps

The current Fire Maps were last updated in 2008. These need to be updated, but this is quite a large project and will take some time to complete. This will require a collective approach with assistance from Brigades, FCO’s and Zulus to ensure all farm names are correct.

Committee agreed that the Fire Map needed to be updated and that the Brigades could be helpful in making certain that all properties are captured and correct.

Roger House suggested that the new maps be available in a digital format.

ACTION: CEO to ensure this matter is progressed including budget provision.

10.4 Signs at Fires

The shire will purchase signs to be located on the Kojonup and Muradup 2.4 Trucks possibly through ESL?

ACTION: CEO to ensure this matter is progressed.

10.5 Water Standpipe Tank Upgrades

ACTION: Rob Cowie and Paul Retallack investigating options and costs as per previous meeting suggestion as this information needed for Council consideration.

11. ITEMS (General Business)

11.1 Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade – Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 3 April 2019.

RESOLVED:

03/19 *“That the minutes of the Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Annual General Meeting held 3 April 2019 be received.”*

11.1.1 Election of CBFCO, DCBFCO and two (2) Senior FCO’s

Following the Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Association (KVBA) AGM held on Wednesday 3 April 2019, it was recommended to the Kojonup Bushfire Advisory Committee that:

- “a) Tony Fisher be recommended for the Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the 2019/2020 year.
- b) Roger House be recommended for the Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the 2019/2020 year.
- c) Ross Fryer-Smith and Myles Reid be recommended for the Senior Bushfire Control Officers for the 2019/2020 year.
- d) The CBCO and the DCBCO are recommended for the Fire Weather Officer and Deputy Fire Weather Officer respectively for the 2019/2020 year.
- e) The CBCO and the DCBCO are recommended to be appointed as authorised officers to issue permits to burn for the collection of clover seed in the Shire for the 2019/2020 year.
- f) The CBCO, DCBCO and the two Senior FCO’s be authorised to advise the CEO of the Shire of Kojonup on the imposition of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans for the 2019/2020 year.”

COMMITTEE DECISION

04/19 Moved Ross Fryer-Smith, seconded Roger House, *that the KBFAC recommends that the Shire of Kojonup adopt the above recommendation.*

CARRIED 8/0

11.1.2 The Kojonup Bushfire Association AGM recommended that the following people be appointed Fire Control Officer for their respective brigades:

Ben Johnston	Captain/FCO	Boilup Brigade
Geoff Gale	Captain/FCO	Boscabel Brigade
Paul Norrish	Captain/FCO	Changerup Brigade
Andrew Bushell	Captain/FCO	Cherry Tree Pool Brigade
Stacey Williams	Captain/FCO	Jingalup Brigade
Gavin Norrish	Captain/FCO	Kojonup Brigade
David Mathwin	Captain/FCO	Lumeah Brigade
Warren Parker	Captain/FCO	Mobrup Brigade
David Brockman	Captain/FCO	Muradup Brigade
Daniel Simpson	Captain/FCO	Orchid Valley Brigade
Trevor Wood	Captain/FCO	Qualeup Brigade
Stuart Tohl	Captain/FCO	Ryans Brook Brigade
Bob Francis	Captain/FCO	Muradup Town

The appointments are subject to undertaking the appropriate FCO training. The next training session is to be advised. Any conditions, restrictions or directions placed on FCO's who are standing again from last year will be continued.

COMMITTEE DECISION

05/19 Moved Roger House, seconded Tony Fisher,
“That the Kojonup Bushfire Advisory Committee recommends that the Shire of Kojonup adopt the above recommendation subject to appointees undertaking the appropriate Fire Control Officer training as required by DFES.”

CARRIED 8/0

11.1.3 Communications Tower

Letter from Qualeup Brigade was tabled at the AGM urging Council proceed with the February 2017 motion of building a standalone tower.

AGM moved the following motion:

“The Kojonup Bushfire Association wish to record a motion of censure of the Kojonup Shire Council in not progressing the installation of an adequate communication system for the use of the Fire Brigades in carrying out their duties as fire fighters.”

Mr Binns spoke to the above motion. CEO advised that improved communications is vital not just for the present but also the future (10 + years). Stating one council decision in isolation to the other motions elected members had passed since February 2017 did not highlight that Cr Sexton (prior to his retirement in October 2017) and Cr Radford identified 2 other possible locations that Council via its officers was asked to compare against the existing tower site given concerns previously expressed regarding:

- Access to the tower for maintenance,
- Lack of a previous written Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement with landowner which Council now possesses,
- No permanent access to Western power supply as presently using solar and battery,
- On-going service agreement with tower and equipment placed on same,
- Structural integrity of existing tower,
- Replacement of missing 5 metres of mast,
- Licence requirements and retention of existing comms channels if an alternative site chosen,
- Audit of brigade/volunteer/council/other potential user radios to establish age, condition,
- Past relationship with DFES and why WAERN was located on the Police Tower.

The meeting on 17 April 2019 with DFES is a step forward in the right direction to achieve the following:

1. A commitment to test and use the VHF High Band (WAERN) radio platform for communications between the shire, CBFCO, Zulus and FCOs for fire ground operations. The UHF CB platform is still anticipated to be the primary platform for use to direct operations with ground crews.
2. Identification to suitable sites (including greenfield) to enable DFES Communications to develop Radio Shadow Maps to provide the best information to guide future decisions.
3. An agreed process and timeframe to enable an acceptable solution to be identified and implemented.

Committee Members look forward to attending next week's meeting with DFES.

11.1.4 All in one weather stations

Roger House stated that 'All in one weather stations' are a nice to have but ultimately property owners know conditions that may result in recommending a harvest ban within the shire which may include Kestrel readings as part of radio scheds.

11.1.5 Ryansbrook Fire

The AGM supported the following motion 14/4:

"That the Heggaton family of Evergreen Grazing Company not be granted burning permits during the restricted burning period and that their open burning season end on the 15 August. The ban to be reviewed after a period of three (3) years."

Considerable discussion followed with Zulu 1 advising that the property owner has already been advised that fire permits will not be issued for the remainder of this fire season and a continuation of restrictions that were placed on restricted burning last year. Zulu's should not be the judge, jury and executioner hence the final decision on the above motion rested with the Shire of Kojonup.

RESOLVED:

06/19 "Zulu's address the Shire of Kojonup Briefing Session on Tuesday, 16 April 2019."

11.2 Restricted Burning Period Dates

Tony Fisher advised that weather conditions will determine any extension to the present 15 April 2019 restricted burning period.

Post script:

Restricted Burning Period was lifted 22 April 2019.

11.3 Reserve Firebreaks

Paul Retallack reported that a Dozer has been organised via DFES to improve fire breaks commencing at least 20 metres from Blackwood Road and more internal breaks to allow mosaic fire control burns at the Muradup Reserve and push up heaps. Bob Francis stated the reserve would be a good training exercise for brigades around June/July when the heaps are burnt.

Paul indicated a similar controlled burn is required in the reserve at the Katanning Road Standpipe and also in the SE corner near Myrtle Benn. All subject to appropriate weather conditions.

12. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13. LATE ITEMS

This section of the meeting is for discussing late items which did not make it into the Agenda and of which a decision is required by the BFAC as to the course of action to be taken.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4 September 2019 commencing at 7.30pm in the Council Reception Room.

15. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:47pm.

16. ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)