



# Shire of Pingelly

## Minutes

General Electors Meeting  
24 March 2021

**SHIRE OF PINGELLY**

**Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers,  
17 Queen Street, Pingelly on 24 March 2021 at 7pm.**

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## **1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7 pm.

### **1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the Noongar people of this area and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people past and present.

## **2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cr WV Mulroney                      President  
Cr J McBurney                      Deputy President  
Cr P Narducci  
Cr B Hotham  
Cr A Oliveri  
Cr D Freebairn  
Cr P Wood

### **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms J Burton                      Chief Executive Officer  
Ms D Sweeney                      Executive Manager Corporate Services  
Mrs V Ward                      Executive Assistant

### **APOLOGIES**

Cr K Camilleri  
Mr D Watkins                      Executive Manager Technical Services

### **OBSERVERS & VISITORS**

Mrs Lesley Page  
Mr Colin Page  
Mr Ron O'Brien  
Mrs Kerry Keys  
Mr Barry Keys  
Mr Rex Hallett

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **3.1 General Electors Meeting – 11 December 2019**

#### **Statutory Environment:**

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meeting to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

#### **Voting Requirements:**

Absolute Majority

**12981 Moved: Cr Hotham**

**Seconded: Cr Oliveri**

#### **Recommendation and Council Decision:**

**That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 11 December 2019 be confirmed.**

CARRIED 7:0

Mr OBrien sought acknowledgement around the Shire President's previously made statement regarding the Shire of Pingelly having the best roads

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020**

The Shire President to call for questions on the Annual Report, including the Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report.

**12982 Moved: Cr Narducci      Seconded: Cr McBurney**

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Annual Report of the Shire of Pingelly for the year ending 30 June 2020 be received.**

#### **4.1 Mr Ron O'Brien**

##### **Summary of Question:**

What was the total level of debt as at the 30 June 2020?

##### **Summary of Response:**

The ECMS replied that as at 30 June 2020 the total debt was \$3,254,890

##### **Summary of Question:**

Why has it taken so long for the Annual Report to be compiled? 17 months is too long.

##### **Summary of Response:**

The ECMS replied that the Financial Management Regulations were changed in September 2020 and back dated to 1 July 2019. As a result, the Auditor General was not prepared to sign off on many local government audits until December 2020. To date, not all Councils had received their Auditors Report.

##### **Summary of Question:**

What are the implications of the debt ratios contained in the Auditors Report. It appears that the debt is out of control. Is the Shire of Pingelly staying sufficiently solvent. I am concerned that the Shire is not heading in the right direction.

##### **Summary of Response:**

The ECMS replied that the Shire has a limited Rate base and other revenue streams such as fees and charges. There is limited opportunity to increase rates.

The CEO stated that the Operating Surplus Ratio means that the Shire of Pingelly is reliant on Federal Government Grants and this is common for the majority of local governments in WA. In relation to the current ratio, in 2019 it was .25% and in 2020 it was .88%, which represents a positive trend.

The CEO also replied that while all compliance requirements had been met for the 2019/20 year, the Asset Renewal Ratio would continue to be identified in the Auditors report until trends were available for 3 years in a row. As the 18/19 figures were not available it would be mentioned in next year's audit results despite complying for two consecutive years.

##### **Summary of Question:**

I hope the plan for getting out of financial trouble is not to increase rates. Property Values might have increased but peoples earning have not.

##### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President responded that the Long Term Financial Plan does not include high rate increases.

Cr Wood replied that the previous financial year the shire had not increased the rates. It was the property values that increased.

CARRIED 7:0

#### **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Shire President to call for any questions from Electors concerning matters under the jurisdiction of the Shire of Pingelly.

#### **5.1 Mr Ron O'Brien**

##### **Summary of Question:**

I would like to ask what is happening for the Sporting Memorabilia Boards at PRACC. I have been asked for the past 3 years.

**Summary of Response:**

The Shire President responded that the PRACC Board were working on it. They had reached a decision that no boards were to be hung inside the PRACC building. Instead the Board was working on getting the information put onto stainless steel which would be put on display on the outside of the building. All new memorabilia boards would be in an electronic format for people to access.

**Summary of Question:**

Was this a decision of the previous CEO and I find it hard to believe that the PRACC being so acoustically engineered that the internal walls can not support the Memorabilia Boards?

**Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that it was a decision of Council based on the recommendations of the previous CEO. He also advised that there was little framing structure high on the wall and that it definitely would not hold the weight of the Memorabilia boards.

**5.2 Mr Colin Page****Summary of Question:**

As there were quite a number of boards from the variety of sporting clubs could the Sporting Memorabilia boards be made smaller hence taking up less space?

**Summary of Response:**

The Shire President advised that this question would be taken on notice and taken to the PRACC Board.

**5.3 Mrs Lesley Page****Summary of Question:**

Could the Memorabilia Boards be hung on the fascia boards as there are concerns in the general community that peoples sporting memorabilia/recognition has disappeared?

**Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that this could be taken to Council for a decision for an appropriate solution to be found if there was a formal motion.

The Shire President agreed that it was important that the memorabilia was there for people to access.

**5.4 Mr Colin Page****12983 Moved: Mr Colin Page Seconded: Mr Ron O'Brien**

That the PRACC Board be requested to investigate an appropriate means of displaying the Honour Boards in the PRACC Building to the satisfaction of the community.

CARRIED 9:2

**5.5 Mr Rex Hallett****Summary of Question:**

Everyone seems to be running the PRACC down. All the visitors that I have spoken to that have visited the PRACC think that it is the best in Australia.

**Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that no-one was running the PRACC down but community members were

just concerned about the Sporting Boards and Memorabilia not being displayed.

#### **5.6 Mrs Lesley Page**

##### **Summary of Question:**

Is there any plans for the cemetery entrance to be upgraded and possibly sealed? I attended a funeral there recently and the entrance is in need of repairs.

##### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that this would be presented as a budget item for the next financial year.

#### **5.7 Mr Ron O'Brien**

##### **Summary of Question:**

Are there plans/budget for the maintenance of the roads in the areas of roadside pruning, cleaning of the gutters and culvert maintenance in the rural roads? Some of our roads have been reduced to single lanes and it is becoming dangerous.

##### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President also expressed his disappointment on the state of these roads. He said that now there was much reliance on contracts to undertake this work. This would be presented as a budget item for the next financial year.

#### **5.8 Mrs Kerry Keys**

##### **Summary of Question:**

Why are the local businesses being relied upon for the cleaning/sweeping of the main street? Should this not be a Shire duty?

##### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that this should be raised with the EMTS and perhaps a budget request for the purchase of a street sweeper be considered for the next financial year.

#### **5.9 Mrs Lesley Page**

##### **Summary of Question:**

The Road into the showground/PRACC needs to be repaired/resurfaced and also is there any chance of installing solar lighting so people can walk back to their cars safely at night?

##### **Summary of Response:**

The Shire President replied that the PRACC/showground road work would be undertaken at the completion of the roadworks currently underway on the Wickepin Road. In regards to the Solar lighting this would be looked into further.

**6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.42pm.

These minutes were confirmed by Council at the  
General Electors Meeting held on

Signed.....  
Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes  
were confirmed.