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# General Elector's Meeting Minutes

Shire of Pingelly

31 January 2024

Please note that questions and responses may be summarised within these Minutes. Every effort to retain the accuracy of the questions and responses has been made.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 05.37pm.

Tonight's meeting is being recorded. There is a microphone tonight and will be used if required. If you are having trouble hearing, please let us know.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the Willman Noongar people of this area and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

**3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Members Present**

Cr J McBurney      President

Cr C Cheney

Cr B Hotham

Cr P Narducci

**Apologies**

Cr P Wood    Deputy President

**Absent**

Cr K Singh

**Staff in Attendance**

Mr A Dover      Chief Executive Officer

Mr M Hudson      Executive Manager Works

Ms Z Macdonald      Executive Manager Corporate Services

Mrs S Nyssen      Governance and Executive Officer

**Members of the Public**

Angela Tretheway

William Mulroney

Lee Steel

David Freebairn

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**4.1 General Electors Meeting – 6 February 2023**

**Statutory Environment:**

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act* provides that minutes of all meetings are 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

**Recommendation and Council Decision:**

**13377            Moved: Cr Hotham            Seconded: Cr Narducci**

**That the Minutes of the General Electors Meeting of the Shire of Pingelly held in the Council Chambers on 6 February 2023 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**For:**            President McBurney, Cr's Cheney, Hotham, Narducci,

**Against:**      Nil

**5. ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

The Shire President called for questions from Electors on the Annual Report, including the Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report. There were no questions from Electors.

**Voting Requirements:**

Simple Majority

**Recommendation and Council Decision:**

**13378            Moved: Cr Hotham            Seconded: Cr Cheney**

**That the Annual Report, inclusive of the Shire Presidents Report, Annual Financial Report and Auditors Report of the Shire of Pingelly for the year ending 30 June 2023, be received.**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**For:**            President McBurney, Cr's Cheney, Hotham, Narducci,

**Against:**      Nil

**Comment from Lee Steel**

I would like to provide feedback received through the CRC. We received copies of the report at the centre and the feedback received from the community are they are very impressed with the report. I believe it is a good report, with the presentation and the format this year.

**Response: President**

Thank you so much.

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Shire President called for questions from Electors concerning matters under the jurisdiction of the Shire of Pingelly.

**Mr Freebairn**

Q1: Grain freight route. Put the rates up a few years ago to pay for it. Is that gone? Is it going to happen? What's going on?

Response: The monies raised from rates for the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network are

held in a reserve.

Informal Question: Is Mr O'Brien an official apology?

Response: Mr O'Brien has had several meetings with staff and received answers regarding the annual report.

Informal Question: At the same meeting last year, I asked this question. (Question 41 from the Minutes, Annual Electors Meeting 2023) Where is the money being kept that was from the rate rise? Are we still raising that particular rate?

Response: The rates raised are held in a Reserve.

Informal Question: The Federal Government has pulled the plug on most of the roadworks within Western Australia, I assume this isn't going to happen?

Response: The project assessments for the 2024/2025 period have recently been approved. The Shire will receive development funding in preparation for our part of the works.

Informal Question: Foreseeing the budget going forward, the rate will be re-instigated to raise more money for the ongoing project when it is up and going?

Response: That is unclear at this stage.

Mr Freebairn takes a seat. The President thanked Mr Freebairn.

### **Ms Steel**

Informal Question: In relation to Mr Freebairn's question, can you please advise which page in the annual report that the information can be found?

Response: Page 37

Q2: I wish to first note that the Christmas Village looked wonderful this year and I know community enjoyed it, however the cost of the undertaking this annual is a concern for me. In 2022 via email I was advised the proposed project budget of \$30,000 was local funds and that funding had not been received for it and was also provided the economic outcome that had been forecast and told that Council would undertake a review before investing future ratepayer funds. Can you advise me if Council reviewed the cost of the 2022 Christmas Village event including staff time, to determine the value for community and what the budget for 2023 was?

Response: Council did not conduct a formal review on the investment of ratepayer funding into the 2022 Christmas Village. The decision to proceed with the next year was based on the positive feedback received and approved through the 2022/23 budget process. That budget was approximately \$27,000 for the 2022/23 financial year.

We are just out of the 2023 Christmas period. The Shire can conduct a more formal review into the investment that has taken place and present it to Council.

Informal Question: Did you do a costing for the previous year? The email from yourself stated a \$30,000 budget. Was this spent in full?

Response: From the information to hand, this was spent in full.

Informal Question: Do you intend to review the costs to ensure value for money this year?

Response: If Councillors wish, staff can conduct a review.

Q3: I would like to as a regular pool user, express my pleasure in the new pool management contract - the pool is always clean and tidy and the contractor brings a great community focus to offered events such as exercise classes. Can you advise if Council is intending to repair the broken tiles at the pool - they are a hazard and some children have cut their feet on them.

Response: The Shire along with Wheatbelt Contract Services have completed a formal review of the pool and maintenance that needs to be carried out. We are organising a contractor to replace signage, as well as tiles and other items that have been identified as important safety issues. This work will be completed shortly.

Q4: Does Council have a plan on when local roads are to be repaired or renewed. If so can you please advise if there is any intention on working on Pitt Street between Quadrant and Parade Street?

Response: We are reviewing all our roads with the intention of creating a Road Strategy. This is something I (Mike Hudson) have just completed for the Shire of Woodanilling. The Road Strategy will be a community based plan which rates our roads by importance. There are accepted formulae to determine which roads are most important and therefore should be prioritised to receive funding.

Informal Question: If a freight route road needs work, then no work happens here, or some money is allocated for the local roads within the town boundary?

Response: There will be a series of costs associated with each priority of road.

Informal Question: You do allocate funds separately for out-of-town roads and in-town roads?

Response: Depending on the road funding that comes in. If the road funding is decreased, then the Shire's work is decreased.

Q5: In regard to the Art & Heritage Precinct, can Council please update us on how the funding is progressing for this project and when work is expected to commence?

Response: We have submitted the funding application for the Growing Regions grant approximately 2 weeks ago, following a successful Expressions of Interest application. We do not expect to hear back for a couple of months with regard that grant application. I would expect that if we are successful in that grant, work would commence next financial year.

Q6: Last meeting it was stated "Q44: Has the Shire sought any funding for the emergency evacuation centre generator? Response: Yes, we sought funding, we were unsuccessful in that grant round. I expect to put in for another round. If not, we will have to look at it for the budget for 2023." Did Council receive funding if not did it get included in the 2023 budget?

Response: Council has again sought funding, through a different stream this time, for the PRACC generator. The Council has also committed to \$30,000 within the budget, to contribute 50% towards the generator. We are hopeful that we are successful in this grant and are waiting to hear back.

Informal Question: If unsuccessful?

Response: If unsuccessful, the Council will have a decision to make whether to purchase a smaller generator for \$30,000 or whether to put more money into it, or to apply for more funding.

Q7: What was the outcome of the report undertaken on the future support by Council to the PRACC? If you recall a previous meeting Council advised they would have a review done and this would be used to determine future funding of the PRACC.

Response: A report has been completed and put through the PRACC Board. One of the recommendations of this report is they conduct a Business Case, a Strategic Plan at various levels and that future funding would be determined on the basis of the results of these documents. The idea is that those strategic plans would demonstrate that the PRACC is becoming more sustainable and therefore require less Council funding. The PRACC Board are committed to doing those plans. I haven't received these plans yet, but I do expect them before the end of the financial year so that the Shire can budget accordingly.

Informal Question: Is there a line item in the budget for the PRACC?

Response: In the current financial year, we have paid the PRACC \$80,000. We have not made the next financial year's budget yet.

Q8: This question relates to the relocation of the Childcare to the Bowling Club. Can Council please advise what it has cost to date (including staff time) to renovate the bowling club and how much more is budgeted to complete renovations?

Response: This question was taken on notice. Response provided at Appendix 1.

Q9: Is it true that REED Daycare will only be offering 3 days per week and no after school care?

Response: REED has said their intention is to offer 4 days per week. Initially not to provide after school care but to work to that point, where they will be offering 5 days per week and offer after school care. We have talked about and put into the lease document, that there will be an MOU, to formalise that arrangement. This MOU has not yet been drafted.

## **7. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 06.02pm.  
Thank you everyone for your attendance.

Dear Ms Lee Steel

**Annual Electors Meeting 31/01/2024 – Question Taken on Notice**

Thank you for attending the Annual Electors Meeting held at the Shire of Pingelly Council Chambers on Wednesday 31 January 2024. At this meeting you asked the below question:

*“Can Council please advise what it has cost to date (including staff time) to renovate the bowling club and how much more is budgeted to complete renovations?”*

This question was taken on notice. I can advise that REED (Regional Early Education & Development Inc.) obtained a capital grant of \$189,000 toward the renovation of a portion of the old bowling club building for the purpose of a daycare. In addition, the Shire expended \$56,172.06 in the 2022/23 financial year and anticipates to spend \$58,613 in the current financial year. It is anticipated that this budget will be fully expended. The Shire’s expenses included work to the building (namely the construction of interior walls, electrical work, asbestos stabilisation, toilet renovations), as well as the fit out of the building for the playgroups.

Should you require further assistance with this matter, please contact Mrs. Storm Nyssen, Governance and Executive Officer on (08) 9887 1066 or [storm.nyssen@pingelly.wa.gov.au](mailto:storm.nyssen@pingelly.wa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Andrew Dover  
**Chief Executive Officer**