



**Minutes
Annual General Meeting of Electors
Held on
Monday 8 December 2008
At the Moora Performing Arts Centre**

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Light Supper and Refreshments to be provided following the meeting

I. OPENING

The Shire President opened the meeting at 8.10pm and welcomed those in attendance.

2. ATTENDANCE

Cr Sheryl Bryan	–	Shire President
Cr Colin Gardiner	-	Councillor
Cr Bill Barrett-Lennard	-	Councillor
Cr Chris Hawkins	-	Councillor
Cr Jim Pond	-	Councillor
Cr Arthur Tonkin	-	Councillor
Cr James McLagan	-	Councillor
Cr Robert Keamy	-	Councillor

Ms Lynnette O'Reilly	–	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Michael Prunster	–	Manager Community Development
Mr John Greay	–	Manager Engineering Services
Mr Glenn Bangay	-	Manager Health, Building & Planning Services
Mr Darren Friend	–	Manager Finance & Corporate Services
Mrs Rebecca McCall	-	Manager Economic Development

PUBLIC

Mr Murray Matthews	Mr David Stribley	Mr Aidan Bryan
Mrs Ann Lewis	Mr Stan Lewis	Ms Tiria Allsopp
Mr Len Holberton	Mrs Kerry Bein	Mrs Merrel Pond
Mrs Vicki Martin	Mr Chris Puttick	Mrs Roma Leers
Mrs Fay Humphreys	Mrs Edna Brown	Mr Joe Fitzpatrick
Mr Trevor Longman	Mr Brian Watson	Mr Tony Streppel
Mr Patrick Howard	Ms Sue Middleton	Mr Michael Brennan
Mrs Wendy Cousins	Mr Kevin Hurley	Mr Adam Gatti
Mr Geoff Gill	Mr Gordon Matthews	Mrs Elda Moltoni
Mr Leigh Manning	Mr Grant O'Brien	Ms Helen Sullivan
Ms Joanna Crosbie	Ms Tracy Smith	Mr Mark Stevens
Mr Graham Kent	Mr Brian Griffiths	Mr Ben Cousins
Mr Paul Rumbold	Mr Allan Murray	Mrs Jenny Griffiths
Mr Neville Cantrill	Mr Kim Gillespie	Mr Wayne Moyle
Mrs Anne Jorissen	Mr Gerry Jorissen	Mr Joe McKinley
Mr Colin Headland	Mrs Chris Van der Ende	Mr Peter Van der Ende
Mrs Narelle Bein	Mrs Marion Matthews	Mrs Lynne Hurley
Ms Johann Gibbons	Mrs Edna Tripp	Mr Andrea (Andy) Moltoni
Mr Jason Todd	Mrs Lee Rowland	Mr Rick Eacott
Ms Karra Mansell	Mrs Nicole Stephens	Ms Tracy Armstrong
Mr Nathan Sydes	Ms Shannan Rollo	Mr Richard Murray
Mr Richard Murray Jnr	Mr Mark Humphrey	Mr Sam Juhren
Mrs Sam Gillespie	Mr Terry Hogben	Mr Peter Watts
Mr Tony Vanderleer	Mr Peter Camplin	Mr Mark Begg
Ms Rosalind Jeaper	Mr Andrew Dines	Mrs Marita Harris
Mr Tom Bashford	Mr Kup Pekepo	
Supt. Catherine Bullen	Insp. Paul McComish	Sgt Frank McGrath
(1 other attendee – illegible handwriting)		

APOLOGIES

Mr Philip Gardiner

Mrs Cynthia McMorran

Mr Peter Ackland

Cr Denise Clydesdale-Gebert

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD 10 MARCH 2008

Moved Mrs Merrel Pond, seconded Mr David Stribley that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on the 10 March 2008 be confirmed.

CARRIED**4. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Shire President read aloud her report contained in the 2007/2008 Annual Report.

Moved Mrs Kerry Bein, seconded Mr Michael Brennan that the Shire President's report for the 2007/08 year, as printed and read aloud, be received.

CARRIED**5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive Officer read aloud the report of the Chief Executive Officer contained in the 2007/08 Annual Report.

Moved Mr Joe Fitzpatrick, seconded Mr Leigh Manning that the Chief Executive Officer's report for the 2007/08 year, as printed and read aloud, be received.

CARRIED**6. 2007/08 REPORT ON PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

The Chief Executive Officer gave a brief overview to the meeting in the form of a power point presentation highlighting Council's principal activities for the 2007/08 year.

Moved Mr Joe Fitzpatrick, seconded Mr Michael Brennan that the 2007/08 Report on Principal Activities and Highlights as printed be received.

CARRIED**7. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

Moved Mr Trevor Longman, seconded Mr Aidan Bryan that the Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2008 be received.

CARRIED

Mrs Ann Lewis questioned the written down valuation of Lot 50 Great Northern Highway, Bindi Bindi (as shown on page 79 of the Annual Report) given that the property was valued at \$40,000 by a licensed valuer prior to Council selling the property for \$25,000.

The Manager Finance & Corporate Services advised Mrs Lewis that the figure shown of \$25,780 represented the historical value of the land and not the valuation of \$40,000 provided by the licensed valuer.

8. INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SHIRE OF MOORA

Moved Mrs Merrel Pond, seconded Mr Michael Brennan that the Independent Audit Report to the Electors of the Shire of Moora for the year ended 30 June 2008 be received.

CARRIED

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Stan Lewis – notice of procedural motion re: questions raised at the last electors meeting held in March 2008.

The Shire President advised that the matters raised had been answered satisfactorily.

Mr Lewis questioned where is the proposed Bindi Bindi Hall at from a Council perspective? Where is the cleaning of the toilets at?

Mr Lewis also advised that the Bindi Bindi Progress Association is possibly ineffective given the recent resignation of the chairman.

The Shire President advised that the Bindi Bindi Hall was closed some time ago and has recently been demolished.

Funding for a Fire Truck Shed has been secured from FESA. An additional room / area is to be constructed adjacent to the proposed shed as a replacement for the recently demolished hall.

Mr Les Crane advised that he had stepped down as President of the Bindi Bindi Progress Association. The Progress Association is in the process of progressing the new building.

The Manager Community Services advised that the Proposed Fire Truck Shed is budgeted for in the 2008/2009 Budget with FESA funding.

The Shire President advised that the toilets were currently functioning with no plans to close them down.

9a. QUESTIONS IN WRITING

Moora Chamber of Commerce Questions submitted the following questions which were read aloud to the meeting along with their written responses by the Shire President.

I. Will the shire purchase more land to expand the Tootra Industrial area?

The 2008/09 financial budget does include an allocation to purchase land to expand the industrial park. Preliminary cost for an extension has been investigated and the proposal will be look at by Council in early 2009.

2. Will the Shire upgrade the Tootra industrial area? Eg lighting, kerbing, drainage, signage

The 2008/09 financial budget has allocated \$6,000 to establish an entrance statement for the industrial park. This project however requires financial contribution of business owners operating within the park. This project has not yet commenced. Three directional street signs have been installed. These are located at the corner of Clinch and Gardiner Streets, corner of Clark and Tootra Streets and corner of Midlands Road and Tootra Street.

The upgrade of lighting, kerbing and drainage is not included in the 2008/09 budget.

3. Will the Westend residential project go ahead?

Although the progress is slow the project is still on the agenda. Management are currently waiting to receive quotations to have a business plan completed for the project. The business plan is a requirement in accordance to the Local Government Act 1995 before the project can proceed any further.

4. Will the Lee Steere St project go ahead?

It is anticipated that proposed Lee Street residential development will go ahead. The required business plan is now complete and will go to Council at the next meeting (December 17, 2008) for endorsement. Once the plan is endorsed Council is required to advertise and make available to the public a copy of the plan and invite submissions.

5. Has the Shire of Moora instigated the possibility of installing surveillance cameras in the Central Business District?

Yes, this is being included in a current funding application. Trials carried out earlier in the year indicated there were benefits in installing a system.

6. Security patrols (after hours: midnight to 5am?) – From the March community meeting it is not practical or cost effective to have patrols.

A recent federal funding application for security patrols was unsuccessful.

7. Encourage the police to patrol known trouble spots (again after hours)? Law and order is a police responsibility. Council do communicate regularly with police on issues of community concern.

8. Does the Council enforce all of their bylaws?

Council does endeavour to enforce all of their bylaws. Bylaws are currently under review.

9b. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Joe Fitzpatrick – Tootra Street Industrial Land.

Drainage and road improvements should be kept to a bitumen finish. Mr Fitzpatrick commented that other industrial areas with alternate finishes such as brick paving required much greater upkeep.

The Shire President advised that Mr Fitzpatrick's comments would be taken on board by the Manager Engineering Services.

Mrs Fay Humphreys – what is the progress with the SBS funding and installation?

The Shire President advised that it was nearing completion and would hopefully be operational by Christmas.

Mr Geoff Gill – are Council's finances secure? What exposure does Council have to the sub-prime market problems?

The Shire President advised that Council had no exposure to problems encountered by other local governments and that all funds were secure. Council's share portfolio was redeemed early last year. The Shire President also advised the meeting of areas of savings achieved via CMVROC which assisted the Shire of Moora in achieving sustainability, as outlined in WALGA's SSS Report.

Ms Tiria Allsopp sought clarification of Crime & Safety funding application. Is the unsuccessful grant application to be resubmitted?

The Shire President advised that several applications for funding in this area were unsuccessful. Council is currently pursuing a graffiti grant. If successful surveillance cameras would be installed in the CBD.

Ms Allsopp questioned why they were the grants unsuccessful?

The Shire President and Chief Executive Officer advised that the grant applications may not have met the necessary criteria.

Mr Lewis asked in relation to the \$100,000 Federal Government Funding for infrastructure projects has there been any approach from the Bindi Bindi Progress Association to the Shire for projects to use the money and has there been any formal approach to elected members concerning Bindi Bindi projects.

The Shire President advised that no formal approach has been made to elected members however consultation is ongoing.

The Deputy President advised the meeting that the majority of small council's will receive \$100,000 from the Federal Government. The criteria set for the expenditure of the funds is very strict and the time frame involved is very short.

The Shire President advised that she had travelled to Canberra last month which was a valuable exercise. Application still has to be made for the funding within the criteria set down by the Federal Government. Council's do not automatically receive their allocation.

Mrs Merrel Pond questioned whether there had been public consultation on the projects?

The Shire President advised no.

Mrs Ann Lewis advised that Councils are to receive \$100,000 from the Royalties for Regions fund from the State Government, in addition to the Federal funding.

The Shire President advised that management have worked on this matter and submitted prioritised projects to be funded from the Royalties for Regions initiative via the Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee (WACC).

Ms Allsopp – upgrade of street lighting. Where are we at?

The Shire President stated that the Chief Executive Officer has been speaking with Western Power.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that an audit of Council's current street lighting had been completed, however funding for upgrades is limited. Grants are to be sourced where possible.

Mr Richard Murray advised that he believes in the strength of the Moora community. The trial of surveillance cameras in the CBD was successful and that Council needs to make provision for the permanent installation of surveillance cameras and the community need to support it.

The Shire President said that a funding application has been made for surveillance cameras in the CBD and agreed that the trial period earlier this year was successful.

Mr Murray questioned why Council were unsuccessful with the majority of its grant submissions? Are we doing it right? Should we employ a grant writer?

The Shire President advised that the success ratio was lower than Council would like and that persistence is the key to funding applications. Managers put a lot of time into their jobs and can't always put in the necessary time with some grant applications. Some grants are tied, requiring matching Council funds and perhaps a dedicated grant writer may reap benefits.

The Deputy President stated that Councils have to be responsible with their grant funding. Many grants are for capital projects that subsequently require ongoing maintenance expenditure.

Mr Murray – smaller grants are available for community projects.

The Shire President advised that this matter would be looked as a formal Council report.

Mr Andy Moltoni stated that Crime & Safety in Moora is a concern. The Christmas holiday period is coming up where a number of houses will be left vacant. Can something be done about it for the benefit of the community?

The Shire President stated that the perceived lack of law and order in Moora is disheartening. Council is aware of these issues and has had its facilities vandalised. A report from the Moora Chamber of Commerce was provided to Council earlier this year which was followed by the public forum held on the 14th April 2008. The funding application for a full time Crime & Safety Prevention Officer was unsuccessful.

Council is in constant liaison with local police looking at ongoing issues. Council met with the new Wheatbelt Superintendent Catherine Bullen last week and were advised that Police patrols were to be increased within Moora.

Cr Hawkins advised the meeting of his recent world trip where he observed various communities throughout the world. Crime and safety issues including graffiti were a problem in some parts of Europe. Asia doesn't appear to have the same sorts of problem from his observations. Moora has similar problems to many other places that don't necessarily have a solution. Self help within the community may make it happen.

Mr Fitzpatrick commented on the amount of debris/rubbish that is in the river, can it be addressed?

The Shire President advised that it will be addressed particularly the area between the bridges.

Mr Gill queried whether anybody had been fined for littering?

The Shire President advised no.

Mr Gill stated that perhaps this needs to be addressed.

The Deputy President commented that a recent busy bee by the Friends of the Moora Woodlands was extremely successful in cleaning up Candy's Bush Track.

Mr Gill commented that this is a soft response to the issue and perhaps Council pursue a hard line with the offenders.

The Shire President advised that the offenders need to be caught in the act of littering to be fined. She also advised that Council has previously fined offenders.

Mr Murray stated with the increase in commercial and industrial tip fees in the 2008/09 Budget a lot of rubbish is being dumped around town. Tyres are no longer accepted at the Moora Tip so where do I dispose of them?

The Manager Health, Building & Planning Services stated that the cost of tyre disposal is extremely high. Recycling opportunities are limited. The Moora Landfill Site is currently nearing or on capacity. A regional facility is currently being looked at by CMVROC.

The Shire President requested that Mr Murray put a formal written request to Council concerning commercial refuse charges and disposal of tyres at the Moora landfill site.

The Shire President invited Superintendent Catherine Bullen, Inspector Paul McComish & Sergeant Frank McGrath to the front of the meeting.

Superintendent Bullen addressed the meeting and invited questions from concerned residents regarding Crime & Safety issues.

Mr David Stribley queried the figures/statistics concerning crime in Moora, they seem disproportionately high. Is this so?

Supt. Bullen advised that burglaries for the current month are much higher than average. Statistics are available on the internet.

Strategies are being put in place to address the current problems. Allow these strategies to be implemented as the Police are also part of the community. Extra Police have been deployed in Moora. If the community is aware of offenders please advise the Police for them to follow up. The Police must follow proper procedure when dealing with crime. Contact can be made via phone and email.

A comment was made by a member of the public that reoffending issues need to be addressed.

Supt. Bullen stated that the court system deals with offenders following Police apprehension.

Mrs Elda Moltoni questioned what strategies are being put in place?

Supt. Bullen advised that this involved a number of initiatives however could not comment in this public forum on exact details.

Mrs Marita Harris questioned whether burglaries statistics included malicious damage?

Supt. Bullen advised no.

Mrs Harris advised that her business had been the recipient of smashed windows and signs. Camera footage is recorded onto hard drive and is available to Police.

Mr Tom Bashford – it appears that this issue has been going on for a number of years. It is ongoing. Young offenders are seen to go unpunished. Social problems need to be addressed prior to the crimes being committed.

Mr Chris Puttick advised of a recent incident at the caravan park involving an assault on a patron. Several break-ins or attempts had been made at his private residence.

Supt. Bullen advised the need to revisit the local Crime & Safety group to assist in the community.

Mr Stribley asked what the police think the reason is behind the increase in the number of serious crime incidents in Moora.

Supt. Bullen advised that intelligence was being gathered on methods of operations of offenders.

Mrs Nicole Stephens advised of the 'Linda Popoff' programme being used in Canada based on 52 values. It incorporates inexpensive programmes starting in schools and parental programmes implemented in the home.

Mrs Stephens commented that CCTV and lighting improvements are needed in Moora as well as the implementation of curfews in town.

Mrs Pond – offenders going through the courts shows that the police are doing a good job. The Juvenile Justice Team is not working to support the police.

Supt. Bullen said the Juvenile Justice Team comments will be taken back to district level for follow up.

Mr Lewis stated that this perambulatory manner is not working. Perhaps the Singapore approach should be looked at.

Mr Colin Headland observed through late night drives around town that young offenders are aware when Police shifts finish and do not respect the justice system when caught. Laws within government need to be addressed otherwise community may take matters into their own hands. Alternatives need to be looked at and values taught. A programme previously run in Kalgoorlie was an alternative.

Mrs Moltoni stated that parents of the offenders need to be educated on their responsibilities.

Cr Hawkins advised that CMSHS has run value days to strengthen values within town and also parenting values.

The Shire President advised that the Youth Club had recently closed down. Funds used previously have been made available for youth holiday programs.

Mr Peter Van der Ende stated that the clearance rate of crime in Moora was quoted above 90%, has this fallen? Repeat offenders – are they being dealt with appropriately?

Supt. Bullen advised that she would get back to Mr Van der Ende with figures but rates are tracking above the norm. A number of issues raised tonight appear to be justice issues.

The Shire President advised that Council will continue to lobby the local member and encourages all citizens, organisations to do the same.

Mrs Chris Van der Ende stated that the current situation may result in serious action against an offender or injury to someone against whom a crime is committed.

Supt. Bullen advised that a focus on mentoring youth may assist and programmes are in place on paper but yet to be properly implemented.

Mr Graham Kent stated that goods are being stolen and being used to fund drug use. Dealers in town need to be apprehended.

Mr Michael Brennan asked who forms the catalyst to get all of the stakeholders together including justice?

Supt. Bullen advised that agencies have an expectation to have input into the local Crime and Safety committee.

The Shire President advised that the Moora Crime & Safety Committee, including representatives from the local police meet regularly. The next meeting is tomorrow. A letter will be sent advising of concerns following the meeting.

Ms Allsopp brought attention to the Manager Community Services and the role of the Moora Crime & Safety Committee.

The Manager Community Services advised of the history of the Committee and its role since 2006. The initial plan was drawn up but funding for the ongoing costs has dried up. Good representation of agencies in Moora and Northam on the Committee. Public input is welcome. Workshops and forums have been successful in the past with a focus on youth.

Moved Ann Lewis, seconded Joe Fitzpatrick that this Annual General Meeting of Electors recommends that the Shire of Moora seeks to employ (in conjunction with other Councils) a grant application officer to enable a high standard of applications for fund for community needs.

CARRIED

The Shire President advised the meeting in relation to the success rates of Council's grant applications that recent grants show that 8 of 12 have been successful with 1 grant pending and 4 yet to be decided.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President thanked the members of the public and the police for their attendance and input into the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

CONFIRMED

PRESIDING MEMBER

Supper and Refreshments were provided following the meeting.