



Annual Electors Meeting – Minutes

Friday 31 January 2020

7.00pm

Hopetoun Community Centre

Notice of Meeting



65 Morgans Street, Ravensthorpe
Western Australia 6346
Telephone: (08) 9839 0000
Facsimile: (08) 9838 1282
shire@ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au

Dear Elected Member

The Annual Electors meeting of the Shire of Ravensthorpe will be held on Friday 31 January 2020 in the Community Centre, Hopetoun commencing at 7.00pm.

Schedule

7.00pm Annual Electors Meeting

Gavin Pollock
Chief Executive Officer

22 January 2020

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Ravensthorpe for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Ravensthorpe disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity that act or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at the person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Ravensthorpe during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Ravensthorpe. The Shire of Ravensthorpe warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Ravensthorpe must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Ravensthorpe in respect of the application.

AGENDA

Shire of Ravensthorpe
Annual Electors Meeting
31 January 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

To Grow Our Community through the provision of leadership, services and infrastructure.

DISCLAIMER

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please Note:

The recommendations contained in this agenda are officers' recommendations only and should not be acted upon until Council has resolved to adopt those recommendations.

The resolutions of Council should be confirmed by perusing the minutes of the Council meeting at which these recommendations were considered.

Members of the public should also note that they act at their own risk if they enact any resolution prior to receiving official written notification of Councils decision from the Shire of Ravensthorpe.



Gavin Pollock
Chief Executive Officer

Unconfirmed

DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST, PROXIMITY INTEREST AND/OR INTEREST AFFECTING IMPARTIALITY

Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Ravensthorpe

In accordance with Section 5.60-5.65 of the *Local Government Act* and Regulation 34(B) and 34(C) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations* and Regulation 11 of the *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations*, I advise you that I declare a (appropriate box):

Financial interest (Section 5.60A)

A person has a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonable to expect that the matter will, if dealt with by the local government, or an employee or committee of the local government or member of the council of the local government, in a particular way, result in a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment for the person.

Proximity interest (Section 5.60B)

A person has a proximity interest in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed –

- (a) change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land;
- (b) change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or
- (c) development (as defined in section 5.63 (5)) of land that adjoins the person's land.

Interest affecting impartiality (Regulation 11). I disclose that I have an association with the applicant. As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly.

An interest that could, or could reasonably be perceived to, adversely affect the impartiality of the person having the interest and includes an interest arising from kinship, friendship or membership of an association but does not include a financial or proximity interest as referred to in section 5.60.

SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE

Agenda for the Annual Electors Meeting of Council to be held in the Community Centre, Hopetoun on Friday 31 January 2020 - commencing at 7.00pm.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting open 7.00pm.

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. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES/ APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR'S: Cr Keith Dunlop (Shire President)
Cr Julianne Belli (Deputy Shire President)
Cr Thomas Major
Cr Mark Mudie
Cr Ken Norman

STAFF: Gavin Pollock (Chief Executive Officer)
Les Mainwaring (Director Corporate and Community Services)
Jane Morgan (Executive Assistant)

APOLOGIES: Graham Steel (Director Technical Services)
Cr Ian Goldfinch
Cr Graham Richardson
Anne Dunlop

ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Nil.

ABSENT: Nil.

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Rod Daw
Pam Cousins
Eve Flanagan
Tim Flanagan
Jan Field
Kay Wilson
Mel Wilson
John Field
Larry Baker

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OR PREVIOUS ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting Minutes – 13 August 2019

Statutory Environment:

Section 5.22 of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides that minutes of all meetings to be kept and submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the council or the committee, as the case requires, for confirmation.

Moved: Cr Tom Major

Seconded: Cr Jules Belli

Res: 1/20

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 13 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority.

Carried: 5/0

4. SHIRE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cr Keith Dunlop, to present the Shire President's Report for 2018/2019, as per page 4 of the Annual Report.

Moved: Mr Rod Daw (Public)

Seconded: Pam Cousins (Public)

Res: 2/20

Recommendation:

That the Shire President's Report be received.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority.

Carried: 5/0

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr Gavin Pollock to present the Chief Executive Officer's Report for 2018/2019, as per page 5 and 6 of the Annual Report.

Moved: Mr Rod Daw (Public)

Seconded: Cr Mark Mudie

Res: 3/20

Recommendation:

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be received.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority.

Carried: 5/0

6. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mr Gavin Pollock to present the Auditor's Report for 2018/2019, as per page 25 of the Annual Report.

Moved: Mr John Field

Seconded: Cr Jules Belli

Res: 4/20

Recommendation:

That the Auditor's Report be received.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority.

Carried: 5/0

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr Gavin Pollock to present the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2019, as per page 28 of the Annual Report.

Moved: Cr Tom Major

Seconded: Mr Rod Daw

Res: 5/20

Recommendation:

That the Annual Financial Report be received.

Voting Requirements: Absolute Majority.

Carried: 5/0

8. SPECIAL BUSINESS

No questions were submitted prior to the meeting. Five questions were asked and taken on notice:

Public Question 1: Mr John Field

Audit Report:

Question John Field - Basis for Qualified Opinion (Page 1 of 3 green attachment) at the 30 June 2018, was the infrastructure assets totalling \$25m, inclusive of housing structures and stuff like that?

Response: Shire President, requested Les Mainwaring, Director Corporate and Community Services, respond on the Shire's behalf:

Response: Director Corporate and Community Services - Infrastructure incorporates roads, drains and footpaths. Revaluation that was done at the time, wasn't accepted by the Auditor General. We were asked to re-access the value of the infrastructure assets as the previous figures applied, were based on the last set of figures available, being 2015.

We revalued as at June 2019 and the figure of \$25m was deemed acceptable. We have caught up and the asset figures have been revalued and the report was accepted fully.

Public Question 2: Cr Tom Major

Annual Financial Report

Question Cr Major - Cr Major invited the Director Corporate and Community Services to explain how the \$98m revaluation came about, for clarification.

Response: Following on from the previous answer, this is the shift in the fair value of infrastructural assets, compared to what they were listed at in 2015. It's a book keeping exercise, nothing has changed, just brings the balance sheet up to its true value. Buildings were revalued in 2017 and revalued again between 3 to 5 years.

Public Question 3: Pam Cousin's **Availability of Reports**

Question Pam Cousins - Where these financial reports available prior to this meeting?

Response: Chief Executive Officer: Mr President, these documents have been available for two weeks' at the Shire's front counters and advertised. If you have any queries in the future regarding any council documents, Shire President welcomed the public to send an email, or go to the Shire office.

Public Question 4. – Eve Flanagan
Concerns on knowing when meetings and events occur

Question Eva Flanagan - There is only a few in attendance, no one was aware the Community Workshop was on? There was no advertising at all.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - It was put on the Shire Website, Shire Noticeboards and CRC centres noticeboards.

Response: Jan Field - large amount of residents are not on Facebook.

Response: Chief Executive Officer: The workshops were advertised before Christmas and unfortunately advertising for the community spirit had not been available until February 11. We have distributed endless amounts of flyers. Post Office, IGA, CRC's at the front counter and every shop all over the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Public Question 5 – John Fields

Question: Can a removal screen to be set up with all of the events/meetings that are taking place for the Shire of Ravensthorpe or flyers be placed in everyone's PO Box in both Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe as elderly people collect their mail.

Response: Chief Executive Officer: The CEO reiterated trying to get the information out to enough platforms is the Shire's challenge, not having newspapers on a weekly basis and being over the Holiday season.

Public Question 6 – Larry Baker
Fire Breaks concerns

Question: Larry Baker - Is the shire broke?

Response: Chief Executive Officer - No.

Question: Larry Baker - Why are we looking for funds to carry out firebreaks, some roads have no firebreaks on them and probably never been done for 10 or 20 years. The simple question to the fire guy was, why have there been no fire breaks down Springdale Road?

Response: Chief Executive Officer - We just got \$165,000 from the State Government for fire mitigation. Because it is over that amount of money, we must go to tender to be able to engage them. Ravensthorpe, Jerramungup and Esperance, are the lead at the moment, for Fire Mitigation, we are under a pilot programme with DFES and we are working on rolling this out.

Question: Larry Baker - Well I dispute that, I think the Shires is possibly a little culpable, as I have a list here of Roads, if you take an extra hour to drive around Ravensthorpe. Go across the Elverdton Road from Hopetoun to Esperance, no firebreaks have ever been done, they are just the simple ones', I have a list of 20 of them, I only did a 1 hour drive the other day. We are not doing our firebreaks, our core management to any Shire to me is roads and fire breaks.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - requested clarification – when you say firebreaks in the road reserve, are you meaning actually having the firebreaks on people's property, or shire roads.

Response: Larry Baker - Not just the roads, its anything that is going to be a fire problem.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - We have a couple of things here, the reserve road is only a certain width and there is no requirement to put a firebreak in there. If it then fringes on national or state, or protected vegetation.

Question: Larry Baker - Do you think the smelter, you know the smelter, with all the bush around there, is not a huge fire hazard with a huge fuel load there. How many back burns have been done in this shire in the last year?

Response: Shire President - Chopper rolling has been done on the sides of the road.

Question: Larry Baker - Has anyone put a firebreak around the free camping spot around Kundip? Do you people like fires?

Response: Chief Executive Officer - Everything you did like that would have to have an environmental assessment. There is occasional burning out on Springdale Road that was done quite some time ago.

Response: Rod Daw - As the Chief Bushfire Officer for 40 odd years, I can say, the Ravensthorpe Shire is known to be one of the most progressive, up to date, role models for bushfire control, certainly in the great Southern. It is well recognised, in 2006, the Ravensthorpe Shire won a Commonwealth Award received for the best strategic plan for the protection of the community in Australia. I hold the trophy.

We do have a rolling plan, we have split the Shire into 80 cells, and we do our utmost to have those cells, as a strategic point to stop a fire. We do a rolling of preparation of breaks on those cells, as funds become available. Funding is very hard to get. We have been lucky to have been appropriated \$165,000, which we have already spent \$60,000 of that. We completed some recent fire breaks on the cells, to the north of Ravensthorpe which takes us out to the Rabproof Fence, Bonimijup Creek, Carlingup Creek, up to the ranges. So those cells have been completed.

When I say a break, we have cleared, excessive growth on those breaks and repaired the flood damage in 2017. We have also repaired the Pilttroup Crossing so we can get firefighters in there.

Our association with Rural Fire Authority, DFES, Wayne Green the Manager of Albany, EBCA and those guys, are second to none. They tell us on a regular basis we are the role model across the southern part of WA. We have recently formed a Southeast Fire Working Group. That is a combination of the Ravensthorpe Shire and the Ravensthorpe Shire initiated the group, and have been joined by Jerramungup and Esperance, who have similar problems to us. Our Shire has got 823,000 hectares of bush, two thirds of the Shire. 1.2m hectares in total. We have a massive problem to protect ourselves, it shouldn't be our responsibility.

In 1971 when the government put a moratorium on land release, there was 15 blocks ready to be released and the government immediately should have been had up for \$50,000 a year, at least, to go towards our fire breaks. Because I believe it is the State responsibility when we can't clear the land. Our fires don't come from cleared land they come from the bush. We should not be responsible for the cost associate with that, our Shire, over the last 3 or 4 years, at a tremendous cost of putting out bush fires and the rate payers shouldn't have to pay for it.

We have a plan, a good one that is just about fool proof. One of the other things we are initiating, and I have initiated this a Fires Force Night. I asked for assistance to do a bit of burning – response was, no sorry seeding and/or shearing time, doing this and that etc.

What I have initiated across the 3 shires now, ABC confirm we can have the helicopter, fire trucks from Albany etc. Fires Fortnightly will commence 1 June 2020 to 14 June, they put on their calendar, we hope in the second year it will run across WA. They give us 1 or 2 days, where we do some patch burns and cleaning up. The Shires are all willing to participate.

Question: Larry Baker - You are not responsible for the grass growing up or down Springdale Road?

Response: Rod Daw - When it is considered a roadside, by the locals that live there. At times when they have concerns, they approach the bushfire organisations, we have 29 of them, the Shire support it to the hilt. Occasionally we get a request by the farmers, can we please burn the roadside. The Shire owns the chain on each side of the road. The approach has got to come from the farmers.

Question: Larry Baker - So you are saying the Shire doesn't have to slash or poison the grass?

Response: Rod Daw - Confirmed there is no obligations on them (Shire of Ravensthorpe) whatsoever.

Public Question 7

Fire Break Concerns, new location - Eve Flanagan

Question: Eve Flanagan - Re the Block Price and Esplanade and Chapman and Phillips. If the fire came from Two Mile, it has never been slashed or done anything with?

Response: Shire President - We are working on as much as we can. We have done a 6 metre firebreak around the area.

Response: Mr Daw - At the bush control officers meetings, in writing, are willing to forward to the body concerned to work on the issues.

Response: Shire President - Keep us informed and Ashley and Rod are doing the best they can with the funds provided.

Public Question 8

Status of Cultural Precinct - Kay Wilson

Question: Kay Wilson - Can you please give us an update on the Cultural Precinct?

Response: Chief Executive Officer - As part of building better regions fund. Areas within the country, water deficit or areas of draught. At the time WA wasn't declared a state drought. We took a punt and put an application together to do the precinct which has been on the books in 2009, in Ravensthorpe. The idea of the funding we put, for every dollar we get \$3 back. Total put in for \$7m. The CRC being located into a new part of an extension of the existing Shire building, The Dunnart would go into the CRC building, seniors into a new building, park upgraded. Play and youth group into the building. Bring the visitors centre up from down the road, into the centre as well, try and use the existing community centre building, next to the BP and the Shire building as two bookends, then you go through to Dunne Street, to the town hall. The idea is to tie the Town Hall in everything into that Cultural Precinct. We have \$320,000 from the Community and corporate sponsors. It happened really quickly, we met with Minister

Littleproud in Kalgoorlie, Minister for Disaster Recovery and Water. We literally had 3 weeks to prepare the application.

If we don't get the money of building better region funds, the project will not go ahead.

It is a community project and an asset going forward so the Community Workshops are vital should the funding get approved, so the Community wants and needs are incorporated, into the project, should funding be approved.

Public Question 9
Firebreak Fine - Larry Baker

Question: Larry Baker - I go away a far bit, winter time. Shire sends me things by mail still, I use a mail forwarding service, Warranoo or Port Hedland. My mail may take a month as it goes to the Eastern States.

Why can't the Shire send me emails? I am going to court over your bushfire act, because I had the bushfire breaks done, gives me 7 days to answer.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - How do I know your mail goes to Melbourne or wherever you are in the world.

Question: Larry Baker - Your staff sends me emails anytime when I pay. They know it, when I pay my rates, staff email me to say thank you for paying and do you know your firebreaks have to be in by blah blah blah. But your fire guy won't send me an email.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - You are well within your rights to dispute.

Question: Larry Baker - My question to you is, and to the Shire is, can you guys, with your mail send emails and SMS messages to those people, if it is a joint thing. In this day and age 1954 fire acts, knows you have to notify by mail. I got one letter two days before Christmas. Your letter here says to me, signed by the CEO, but contact the fire contact me via email and you send that to me in the letter.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - So you have the information in writing.

Question: Larry Baker - It's about the shire having a policy please, to send important things in an email.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - When we do send something in email, they can end up in junk box, spam box or firewall block. We don't get any way of knowing if received. We have recently implemented any email sent to the Shire will get an automatic reply.

Question: Larry Baker - Last two emails I sent to the Shire I didn't get no reply. I rang your staff and ask how does it work.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - Which address? If you don't get a reply we wouldn't have received the email. If you don't receive an email back, saying we received your email, then we wouldn't have received it as automatic reply has been sent.

Question: Larry Baker - When you send these letters, mail, well it takes 7 days to get to Hopetoun or Ravensthorpe, it goes to Perth first.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - A bit of clarification on the 7 days, there has already been two letters sent out, 60 days and then 30 days. So we were at the point of enough is enough. We had to take a hard line. That is what the rules are, that is what it is. We have given notifications. How long have you had a property in Hopetoun.

Response: Larry Baker - a little while.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - You obviously know firebreaks need to be carried out and when. The State Government is looking to update the government act to upgrade to the 21st century. Trying to get communication out to any community can have issues. You can use technology, put posts up, Facebook etc. We try to communicate the best we can.

Public Question 10

Seating in Hopetoun – Eve Flanagan

Question: Eve Flanagan - McCullough Park, there is not enough seating available. As secretary of the Hopetoun Seniors, I did send a letter to the Shire about seating in Veal Street and the cemetery. I have heard Progress are suggesting a seating project. They are going to approach the Shire. Maryanne Haven across the road, could you include this place. I know you have more important things to deal with but if you could consider it would be appreciated.

Response: Chief Executive Officer - I can confirm there is some funds available for seating, so it will be looked into in the future and discussions take place by us working together. We can apply for grants together and improve the processes. Start improving things going forward.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Meeting closed by Shire President at 8.31pm. Thank you for attending.