



**ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2022
Held At The Cornerstone Function Room,
141 Vincent Street, Beverley
On Wednesday 7 December 2022
Commencing At 10am**

1. Commencement of Meeting

The President, Cr White declared the meeting opened at 10:00am.

The President began by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, the Ballardong People and paid his respects on behalf of Council to Elders past and present.

2. Introduction of Councillors & Staff

The President introduced Councillors and Staff to the Community Members In attendance.

3. Attendance and Apologies

**Attendance
Councillors**

Cr D White	Shire President
Cr D Davis	
Cr P Gogol	
Cr S Martin	
Cr J Maxwell	
Cr M Norman	

Staff

Mr S Gollan	Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Marshall	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr S de Beer	Manager of Planning
Mr S Vincent	Manager of Works
Ms A Lewis	Executive Assistant

Public

Mrs G Petchell	Mr P Jenkin	Mrs J Rayner
Ms L Atkinson	Mr K Murray	Mrs D Ridgway
Mr M Martin	Rev. P Raymont	Mr L Rudd
Mrs D Gowland	Mr S Gowland	Mr J Islip

Mr R Andrey
Mr B Doherty
Mr G Stanley
Mr F Bremner
Mr G Dasborough

Mrs B Vivian
Ms P Hughes
Mr R Favalli
Mrs J Murray

Mrs S Shaw
Mr H Morrell
Mr J Fregon
Mrs S Collins

Apologies

Cr C Lawlor
Cr A Sattler
Cr T Seed

Deputy President

Mrs A Fleay
Mrs B Foster

Project Manager, Shire of Beverley

4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MAE1/1222

Moved: Mrs D Ridgway

Seconded: Cr S Martin

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2021, held in the Cornerstone Function Room, 141 Vincent Street, Beverley, on Tuesday 5 April 2022, be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

6. Shire President's Report

The Shire President read the following report to the meeting:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Electors' meeting for 2022. I would firstly like to draw your attention to the fact that this meeting is being held at the time we would all expect it to be held. You will recall that the Electors' meetings for 2020 and 2021 were held in June 2021 and April 2022 respectively.

This occurred as a result of Local Governments being brought under the jurisdiction of the Office of Auditor General. This move caused serious delays in having our audit finalised thus the delaying these meetings. For the Financial Year ended 30 June 2022, the audit was concluded and the Annual Report signed off at the Council meeting in October this year. This is the timetable Council set for this process previously and it is hoped that it will continue.

Stephen Gollan has now been in the role of Chief Executive Officer since January 2012 and so I believe it is useful to reflect on some of the achievements over that time and consider what might lie before us. The future may not be as rosy as some pundits predict.

As I outlined in my report for the December Blarney, the Shire has completed some remarkable achievements over the past eleven years which have delivered benefits to the community.

1. The first of these would be the additions and renovations to the sporting complex at the oval including the construction of new netball courts (to which the Netball Club contributed significant funds). The playground also extended beyond its initial establishment.
2. The construction of two Independent Living Units in Dawson Street.
3. The construction of the Cornerstone Building which houses the Community Resource Centre, Visitor Centre, Library, Day Care Centre, and four leased offices.
4. The installation of solar panels on both the Shire offices and the Cornerstone building.
5. The construction of the Moort Wabiny Park which incorporates numerous activities for our youth. I would also acknowledge that the impetus for this project was driven largely by people within the community.
6. Reroofing the Town Hall and Lesser Hall and the replacement of the flooring in both halls.
7. The complete renewal of the kitchen in the Lesser Hall.
8. Installation of new entrance doors in each hall as well as the replacement of the Stage curtain in the Town Hall.
9. The re-roofing of the Old School building.
10. The re-roofing of the old Courthouse building and the establishment of a gymnasium within.
11. Lighting for the airstrip to enable the Flying Doctor to evacuate injured and seriously ill patients 24 hours a day. Initiative for this was led by John Lane to whom we offer our thanks.
12. The construction of six cottages near the caravan park comprising three two bedroom and three one bedroom units. These have proven to be a greater success than was expected and the feedback from guests has been very positive.
13. Water Harvesting Project led by the Community which has reduced reliance on scheme water and consequently saved the Shire money.

14. Other projects include: footpath renewal and extension programme, solar panels on the Ram Shed for the Pool, and resealing the runway at the airstrip.
15. The redevelopment of Vincent Street with the additions of Al-Fresco areas, more disabled parking, Wombat Crossings to assist pedestrians to safely cross the street from footpath to footpath, and garden beds and trees.

Some of the most significant aspects of the development are below ground. Namely; the power and the renewal of the storm water drainage system which should help to alleviate any flooding of the street resulting from severe thunderstorms in the future.

I would also like to highlight one aspect of which we should all be aware and that is the Wombat Crossings are not crosswalks, and pedestrians must give way to traffic at all times.

In all, these projects, undertaken by the Shire over the past 11 years have cost a total of about \$16 million. Funding has come from State and Federal Grants as well as Lotterywest and the RAC. Shire contributions have come from general revenue, Reserves and Loans.

I would also like to acknowledge the patience and resilience of the community throughout the Vincent Street redevelopment. It is a credit to the common sense and understanding of this community that having negotiated an open and live construction site with its innumerable hazards for a period of eleven months without any serious mishaps is a credit.

It would be remiss not to also acknowledge the workers with MG Group whose understanding and patience through this period assisted everyone. Of course, it goes without saying that this team was so ably led by Anthony Santella who came to know nearly everyone in Beverley.

GHD were the firm of architects and engineers who designed the project and oversaw the work. They were led by Ian Pexton and our thanks go to him for his involvement and advice.

At all times the project was overseen by a Shire Project team which included the CEO Stephen Gollan, the Deputy CEO Simon Marshall, the Executive Officer Ali Lewis, the Manager of Planning and Development Services Stefan de Beer, and Project Officer Ashleigh Fleay. Of these it was Stefan who probably lost the most sleep as he worked daily with the project. Thanks to him for his considerable work.

Why did it take so long? A project that was planned to be completed by Easter this year hit hurdles from day one. The road was the biggest. Despite considerable drilling and testing of the road in situ, not all issues were revealed. What was anticipated to be straightforward levelling and bitumising, turned out to be a complete rebuilding of the

entire street. This added significantly to the time and was not helped by members of the team contracting Covid which meant all members of the team returning to Perth for the 14 days isolation period. Innumerable other issues arose both large and small which added to the delay.

We reached the Practical Completion date on 10th October. At this date, all parties signed off to the fact that all that was required to be done under the contract had been done and any issues resolved.

From this date, the Shire has a twelve-month period which is referred to as the Defects Liability Period. It means that the Shire has a period of twelve months to identify any defects that may reveal themselves for which the contractors are required to make good.

It also means that the Shire is not able to make any changes in the street during this period without the express acknowledgement of the contractor. To do so would potentially risk the Shire's ability to claim on defects that might be identified.

Western Australian Heritage Awards

As part of the Vincent Street redevelopment, investigation went into establishing an Heritage Trail along Vincent Street to highlight the various heritage buildings. This project was nominated for the Western Australian Heritage Awards for 2022. There are seven categories in these awards and the Beverley nomination came under the 'Heritage Tourism Project' category.

To become a finalist in these awards is an achievement in itself as there are quite a number of nominations from which the finalists are selected. We were pleased to learn that we were one of the three finalists in our category.

On Friday 25th November I attended the presentation of awards with Stefan de Beer, Manager of Planning and Development Services, and Ashleigh Fleay, Project Officer, at the WA Museum. We were delighted when the Beverley project was announced the winner.

It was a privilege to be able to accept this award on behalf of the Shire and community, and heartening to have positive feedback from the judges who considered this project of an outstanding quality.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Stefan, Ashleigh, and Jacinta Murray the Tourism Officer in this project. And thank you to the Beverley Historical Society who were able to provide information for the project.

Future Projects

There are now other projects contemplated by the Shire for which some planning has been done.

The first of these is the swimming pool complex. New pumphouse, filtration system, wet deck and disabled access are just some of the changes planned. A new wet area for the children with shallow pools as well as overhead water features. New change rooms with hot showers and a new kiosk are just some more of the features.

The current bowl is over 60 years old and while it has undergone inspection and resealing recently it is certain that it will not last for another 60 years.

So, with that in mind, a plan has been developed to carry the envisaged changes and costed in 2019 at \$6 million. In anticipation of applying for a grant under the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund scheme, the cost of the project was again assessed in 2021 and came in at \$11.6 million. It is hard to imagine that it has not increased further since then. More importantly, the Building Better Regions Fund scheme has now been abolished by the Commonwealth Government.

A concept plan has been developed and put to the community for the beautification in the Avon River Park and potential work on the Pool adjacent to the Park. A fully costed plan is yet to be developed for this project but is dependent upon grant funding from whatever source that can be identified.

The Museum at Avondale is currently being reviewed by the Shire as to the possibility of moving the collection closer to the town. Located where it is means it does not get the visitor numbers it deserves. Whether the whole collection could be moved is dependent upon finding a location of considerable size. Alternatively, moving parts of the collection to a smaller location is under consideration but this has its own problems. I would like to acknowledge and thank the few volunteers who diligently attend to the maintenance of the collection and assist with opening up for visitors.

The Shire is currently negotiating with the Health Department for the transfer of the old Nurses' Quarters and the land upon which they are located. Plans for this building have yet to be developed but a condition of the transfer is that the plans must be to do with health.

Another potential project is housing for accommodation for nurses and associated health professionals. Health Department personnel recently met with the Shire to discuss the plan for the Shire to build accommodation units whether houses or units which would then be leased to the Department for a reasonable period of time. Such a project would provide a cost benefit to the Shire and community.

The old school building adjacent to the Shire offices has been under consideration for redevelopment for some time. It is planned to convert it to a formal Civic Centre in which the Council Chambers will be relocated. Plans for this are currently being finalised and again the execution will depend upon grant funding.

A project that does require attention are the bridges within Shire boundaries. Considerable funding is required for these bridges and the Shire is largely dependent upon Main Roads.

Local Government Reform

The current Minister for Local Government, the Honourable John Carey, wasted no time when he was appointed to his Ministerial role in commencing a review of Local Government. Consultation was widespread and the Shire of Beverley provided submissions.

Reforms have been announced and are being implemented over a period of time. Among the main ones affecting Beverley are the reduction in the number of Councillors, wards, optional preferential voting, and the recording of meetings.

In terms of the number of Councillors, the Shire is required to reduce the number from the present nine to seven. Options were given to achieve this and the Council has presently decided to do so over two election cycles. In 2023 there will be four positions reduced to three. This will give eight Councillors until 2025 when five positions will reduce to four.

Importantly, community members have the opportunity to comment via a submission paper available from the Shire office. This paper has been available for some time and if you wish to make a submission, it must be completed by 4:00pm today.

Strategic Community Plan

This plan is required to undergo a complete revision next year and while the Council and Management will be developing the Plan it will only be completed after considerable community consultation. Other plans will then fall out from this one but I would urge all interested members of the community to participate in the consultation when the time comes. Without this input, Council can only guess what the community might be thinking.

Outlook

While it's not possible to fully anticipate what might be coming in the future, I suspect 2023 may be a year of some difficulty. Economically, there are many views across the spectrum, not just for Australia but for the World. My conservative nature inclines me to a cautionary position. As the Shire has now achieved so much with development, it is probably a time to view any expenditure with considerable care.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Councillors who have put in a significant effort this year and given me great support. Thanks also to all the staff at the Shire for their efforts this year and to Stephen Gollan who provides exemplary leadership and who is always willing to meet with community members who may have concerns. Finally, to the community for your support during the Vincent Street Project which we know was very trying for everyone. Your patience and endurance is a credit to all and your attitude is what makes Beverley such a great place to live.. I wish

everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and let us hope for a New Year that brings peace and prosperity.

7. Annual Report Questions

7.1 – Mr Lionel Rudd

Page 14 – St John Ambulance is not mentioned in the LEMC.

Page 53 – No reference to Aerodrome

Response – noted by Council.

7.2 – Mr Graham Stanley

Page 6 – Key Strategic Activities – how are the timelines progressing?

Responses:

EV Charger – waiting on State Government funding, still progressing.

Swimming Pool Solar – installed and complete.

Plant Replacement – Grader ordered and due Jan/Feb 2023.

Bridgeworks – progressing but tied to Main Roads funding.

Road Construction – ebbs and flows, delay with bitumen supply and delay at the start due to inclement weather.

7.3 – Mrs Dee Ridgway

Update on Bridge 3197 on York Williams Road?

Response – design complete, waiting for funding.

Will the Shire charge for the use of the EV Charger?

Response – yes it will.

7.4 – Mrs Jenny Rayner

Why isn't the airport lighting on the Key Strategic Activities?

Response – It is in the Annual Budget but dependent on external funding.

Before moving the adoption of the Annual Report, the Shire President thanked the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report which was found to be a clean report by the Auditors.

8. Adoption of 2021/22 Annual Report

MAE2/1222

Moved: Cr D White

Seconded: Ms L Atkinson

That the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2022, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. General Business

Written questions received:

Mrs Jenny Rayner

9.1 Airstrip Lighting - I'm sure you are very much aware that the lights are nowhere near as efficient as they need to be. Are they going to be replaced?

It concerns me that should an RFDS plane comes in at night they may refuse to land because of the inadequate lighting. This seems an ongoing problem since they have been installed. Also the flood lights on the shed are not working.

Response – An application has been submitted in the Federal Regional Airports Program Round 3 for the supply and installation of fixed electrical reticulated airfield lighting at the Beverley Airstrip. This project costs approximately \$300,000 with a 50% contribution sought through this program as per the grant guidelines. The application was submitted in May 2022 and after speaking with the Department this week for a status update, they advised that the round 3 applications are currently with the Minister for deliberation. Federal funding announcements are normally a 6 month turn around so it is anticipated that we will hear early in the New Year.

We will keep you updated once we have notification from the Department on the outcome of our submission.

Floodlights – fuse is being replaced.

9.2 The main street looks great!

My concern once again is the wombat crossings, I haven't seen any wombats in the main street of late and pedestrians are using them as pedestrian crossings. My question is who has right of way Vehicles or people. I know most vehicles will stop but...can signage be erected as to who has right of way.

Response – The Wombat Crossings are not Zebra (Pedestrian) Crossings. Vehicles have right of way, I agree most stop if there are people on the crossings or about to step out.

We are investigating signage that advises pedestrians to give way to vehicles.

9.3 Nurses Quarters – What is happening with them? Can they be spruced up and used for HACC and other community groups?

Response – Council has lodged Deposited Plan 424222 with the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH).

To further progress this case DPLH, will need to send out a Market Valuation Report to Landgate and Draft a Land Sales Proposal. Once this process is finalised, staff at DPLH can begin to hand the case over to their Delivery Team.

Once Council has control over this area and buildings there will be a need to conduct some maintenance on the buildings.

Unfortunately, I cannot say when the process will be complete, as we will need the Minister's final approval, before any works can commence.

9.4 The car park between the Pharmacy and Old 4 Square. I realise it is privately owned but word is that if sold it could reduce parking in this area if the new owners want to develop there. As Beverley has an aged population this area is used by many of the elderly. Are the Shire considering buying this land and leaving it as a car park?

Response – Council did make an offer to purchase the entire area as this was the wishes of the owner, not to split the lots. The offer was rejected and a counter offer was presented to Council. Council resolved not to accept the counter offer.

Mrs Glenys Petchell

9.5 What happened to the artwork off the old rubbish bins? If the Shire still have them are there plans to have them displayed if in good condition? I suggest to display on the verge at the bus stop behind the museum or perhaps in the free caravan park.

Response – The Shire has retained 8-10 pieces of artwork. Your suggestions will be taken into consideration.

9.6 Why are there no hot showers in the men's toilets at the swimming pool? The weather has been particularly cool and some kids with skin issues need to shower after swimming lessons.

Response – The hot water in the ladies changerooms was requested by female early morning swimmers, at that stage there were no male early morning swimmers. Council will consider it in the next budget.

9.7 What are the Shires plans for the Old Nurses Quarters? It is a shame to see the building not in use. It would be nice for HACC to have somewhere to go as they love their own space like they had at the Ambulance Hall, separate from their living environment.

Response – Council has lodged Deposited Plan 424222 with the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage (DPLH).

To further progress this case DPLH, will need to send out a Market Valuation Report to Landgate and Draft a Land Sales Proposal. Once this process is finalised, staff at DPLH can begin to hand the case over to their Delivery Team.

Once Council has control over this area and buildings there will be a need to conduct some maintenance on the buildings.

Unfortunately, I cannot say when the process will be complete, as we will need the Minister's final approval, before any works can commence.

9.8 Do the Shire have any plans on purchasing a new community bus in the near future?

Response – Yes, Council are currently investigating new and used Bus options.

Mrs Dee Ridgway

Purchase of Property

9.9 The proposed property purchase of Lots 123, 422 and 423 Vincent Street to secure currently used parking adjacent to Beverley Pharmacy was commercial by nature requiring Council discussions to be held “behind closed doors”, which meant the community were not included or privy to Council deliberations. Did Council receive a valuation of the property prior to rejection of the Officers recommendation to submit an offer including \$75,000 from reserves in addition to \$200,000 already endorsed in the 22/23 budget?

Response – Council considered the purchase of the land and made a reasonable offer to do so which was declined. After further deliberation, given state of the building, considered taking on the building was not in the best interests of the Rate Payers regardless of securing tenure of the car park or not.

Council enquired about a market valuation, the cost of doing so was \$4,200.00, it did not go ahead with the valuation.

9.10 The 3 lots being sold as a whole includes the Edwards building on the corner of Vincent and Forrest Streets which is recognised in the Shires Municipal Heritage Inventory. It was built in the same year as the Beverley railway station (which had been considered for demolition in 1982 and 25 years later won a Heritage Award for the work undertaken to conserve it.) Did Council receive a structural report on the Edwards building to assist their decision making?

Response – No Councillors and Staff visited the building. A quote of \$15,170 was received to do a Building Inspection report. It did not go ahead with the report.

Did Council consider community engagement to determine if a sustainable use could be identified for the Edwards building?

Response – No.

9.11 Was there consideration by Council that the 3 titles could be realigned or amalgamated? Such as the following example:-

- 1 title for current parking area (2 titles at present)- retain by shire
- 1 title for the Edwards building on corner of Vincent and Forrest st - sell, lease or sustainable use
- 1 title on corner of Anzac Lane and Forrest Street – sell or leave vacant
- Amalgamate current 3 titles into 2 titles – parking area & Edwards building area

Response – No.

9.12 How does Council now propose to secure the parking area next to the pharmacy which is conveniently used by community and visitors?

Beverley has an elderly population who need safe areas to park within a proximity they can manage.

Beverley's visitation has been increasing, including caravans and cars with trailers for tractor pull, motor cross, BORMSA which would be serviced by establishing parking as has been undertaken in the Fig Tree carpark.

Surfacing and line marking this parking area would complement the Vincent Street redevelopment project and support businesses in the eastern end of the Vincent Street shopping precinct.

Response – At this stage it does not have any further plans to secure the carpark.

9.13 Did Council take into consideration community benefit when determining not to support the Officers recommendation at the October 2022 Council meeting?

I have been in touch with all Councillors regarding Councils decision and in several instances it was suggested that only workers park at the pharmacy carpark, which I strongly disagree with. I trust this was a flippant comment rather than standard view of Council.

Response – Yes, a robust debate and discussion took place and Community benefit was certainly considered however the serious disrepair of the building along with Council having other aged buildings to maintain and consider including the Old School Building, the Old Nurses Quarters and Swimming Pool were determining factors in Council's decision.

Avondale Collection

9.14 While recognising the Shire has been particularly busy in 2022 with the Vincent Street redevelopment and Spring Back to Beverley, has there been any progress regarding the Avondale Museum Collection, which the Shire of Beverley has responsibility for, since the Annual Electors meeting in April 2022?

Response – Avondale does not appear to be a Community priority, however Council acknowledges the tourism potential of The Machinery Collection, which has been identified in a recent workshop, as being a priority to develop for Council. A decision regarding the future of the collection will be made in due course and form part of the 23/24 Budget if the priority remains.

Until we know what is going to happen, the museum is effectively in care and maintenance.

9.15 The former Avondale Farm Project Association (AFPA) commenced the tedious task of electronic cataloguing of the Avondale collection using Filemaker Pro. This was provided to the Shire when AFPA disbanded in 2019. Has the information collected to date been backed up by the Shire?

Response – I do not believe this has been done given the age of the laptop.

9.16 Digitally cataloguing the collection is vitally important regardless of the museums future and is a task requiring skill, training and a level of knowledge to capture the correct information. What plan does the Shire have to continue museum standard electronic cataloguing of the collection?

Response – Council agreed to appoint Monica Vander Snoek & Robyn Smith to re-commence the cataloguing of the collection. The laptop has been issued to Robyn.

9.17 Would Council revisit the Avondale Farm Machinery Collection Interim Report commissioned from 150 Square which among other things recommends:-

- Development of a Management Plan ... *“which will address the collection management, roles and responsibilities of the Shire and volunteers etc”*
- Financial allocation towards a dedicated “Resource (person)” *to drive the project forward, improve the collection and assist in the achievement of the collection purpose as well as improved operations governance and the visitor experience of the collection”*

Response – Council may consider it in the future.

Mrs Dee Ridgway – What skill sets do Robyn and Monica have to do the cataloguing? It needs to be done correctly and accurately.

Response – Noted

Questions from the Floor – Not recorded verbatim, summary only.

9.18 Mr Harvey Morrell – Wombat Crossings, motor cars pull up and give way to pedestrians, they should become official crosswalks.

Response – Official crosswalks require Main Roads approval. They take into consideration, speed of traffic, population and volume of traffic. They also require heavy signage. Tall signage will clutter the ambience of the street. Shire must also seek approval to change anything during the one year defect period.

9.19 Mrs Sue Collins – Wombat Crossings – also notes that cars voluntarily stop for pedestrians. Perhaps a sign could be erected at the entrance of Vincent Street advising vehicles they have right of way?

Response – Noted

9.20 Mrs Larissa Atkinson – Notices the Shire does not have a Health Plan. When the Strategic Community Plan is developed, can Air Quality (when seasonal burning occurs) and Domestic Violence be considered?

Response – Domestic Violence is a dreadful blight on Society, essentially it is not Shire business but can be considered in the planning.

9.21 Mr Steve Gowland – Would the Shire consider purchasing the carpark on its own?

Response – Council is open to consider it.

9.22 Mr Steve Gowland – has developed a petition to see if ratepayers want to keep the carpark. To date there are 150 signatures.

Response – Please table the petition so it can be dealt with.

9.23 Mr Steve Gowland believes negotiations for the carpark are still achievable, can we renegotiate?

Response – Council can still negotiate if something is presented to them.

9.24 – Mr Steve Gowland – The current owner has paid rates on the carpark for 22 years and not charged the public to park there. It would be different if I as a business owner or another business owner owed it.

Response – That is completely up to the owners.

9.25 Mr Keith Murray – The old supermarket did receive a benefit when the shop open as people parked there to shop.

Response – Noted

9.26 Mrs Dee Ridgway – is disappointed the way only the economic factors have been considered rather than social and community consultation when considering the carpark. Historical Society – are to be congratulated on assisting with heritage trail, it is their information that has been used in paper format for visitors and tourists for the last twenty years. Strategic Community Plan – have Council given consideration to how they will develop it?

Response – Carpark – noted.

Historical Society – Agree and noted.

Strategic Community Plan – public consultation in various formats in 2023 and a Consultant has been engaged to assist.

9.27 Mr Keith Murray – expressed concern about the road verges throughout the Shire being covered by wild oats. The vision on the corners and intersections is dangerous.

Response – Council is in agreeance. Unfortunately, an order was issued in early August to complete 600km of spraying but the contractor only did a small number of kilometers, taking on larger Main Roads contracts. Our job was continually pushed back. Next year we will purchase our own set up and do it ourselves.

9.28 Mr Keith Murray – Great Southern Hwy in the Beverley Shire, from Gwambygine to the Hay Shed in Brookton is one of the worst sections of any highway in the State. When will the road be widened and safe edging installed? Can pressure be applied to Main Roads or can Hon. Mia Davies MLA be contacted? The School Bus travels this roads and it is very dangerous.

Response – Shire totally concurs. At the recent Central Country Zone Meeting in Brookton we were assured the road will soon be upgraded. The Shire will continue to pressure Main Roads.

9.28 Mr Keith Murray – in regards to the carpark issue, it was mentioned earlier that road construction costs are increasing, this will surely soon create budget stress. I support the decision to carefully consider such an expense.

Response – Noted.

9.29 Mr Keith Murray – in regards to the AGM, when we hold it next, can it go back to an evening meeting? Concern that young ratepayers are not here as they are busy working. Can it be held over to a time such as March when things are more settled?

Response – Under the *Local Government Act 1995*, the AGM to adopt the Annual Report must be held within 45 days of Council receiving it. We could consider a General Meeting of Ratepayers though in March.

9.30 Mr Graham Stanley – the lighting is poor on the Great Southern Hwy at the Delisle Street intersection, can the relevant authority be informed?

Response – Yes, Council will contact MainRoads and/or Western Power.

9.31 Mr Graham Stanley – in regards to the Vincent Street Project, it is now finished and all we have received is disruption to the business, footpath ripped up and poorly put back and extra cleaning from dust during the project. We feel like the poor relation at the end of the street that does not matter. Our competition has a new footpath and alfresco area. We do not even have a matching footpath. Are there any plans to extend the project to the bridge?

Response - When the project started in 2014 the project ran from Hunt Road to the Bridge. During the tender process the project was split in to four separable portions. (Portion 1 – Hunt Rd intersection, Portion 2 Hunt Rd to Forrest St, Portion 3 – Forrest Street to the Bridge and Portion 4 – Town Square). When the tenders were received, they were significantly over budget so portion 3 and 4 were removed. Main Roads paid for portion 1 .

The designs for Forrest St to the Bridge are complete and ready for funding applications should it become available.

9.32 Mr Graham Stanley – What is with the disaster at the Forrest St intersection?

Response – There was a drainage issue and an issue with the turning circle and GHD advised the alfresco should be removed. Unfortunately there is now an unused sump in the middle of the road but it would cost more to remove it than to keep it.

9.33 Mr Harvey Morrell – Are the Consultants that the Shire are always using, aware of country conditions?

Response – We will do a better job of advising them next time.

9.34 Ms Larissa Atkinson – the availability of the Police in town is becoming an issue. Can this be included in the Strategic Community Plan or brought up with Hon. Mia Davies?

Response – Agree this can be an issue, will raise with Hon. Mia Davies MLA .

9.35 Mrs Sue Collins – the Footpath from Council Road to Vincent Street needs attention at the joins. It is too rough to use a gopher on. I have been using the Caravan Park to come to travel into town on my gopher.

Response – noted, will be looked at.

9.36 Mrs D Ridgway – The intersection of York-Williams and Waterhatch Road recently had another accident occur with someone flown to Perth in the rescue helicopter. I know the Shire have tried before to have more signage in place, will the Shire take the issue up again with Main Roads?

Response – Yes, the Shire will take up again. We have police reports this time around to assist.

9.37 Mr Harvey Morrell – are farmers encouraged to spray the Shire vegetation when they do their firebreaks, some believe they are not allowed?

Response – yes, they are encouraged to spray the verge if it's possible.

9.38 Mr Steve Gowland – the rocks in the garden beds are too close to the kerb. Is there a guideline? I believe it to be 600mm?

Response – the rocks are well noted by the Council who will consult with GHD about the guidelines. We are not ignoring the situation, rather trying to save the reticulation.

9.39 Mrs Sue Collins – if the rocks are removed some sort of guard will be required around the reticulation as I believe people drive into it on purpose. I would like to compliment the Shire on the Main Street.

Response – Noted.

9.40 Mrs Glenys Petchell – Why are there no Christmas Decorations in the Main Street? Out street is very boring compared to other Shires.

Response – the Christmas Trees outside the Shire were installed yesterday.

9.41 Mrs Jane Murray – congratulated the Shire on bringing the season pool prices down for family.

Response – To date 191 individuals have taken up season passes compared to 40 last year. The Shire is keen to see usage increase so that it can justify any grant funding applications it makes.

Mr Keith Murray noted that the pool has always been a financial burden to the Shire and the revenue is quite insignificant in terms of running costs so it is good that people can now afford to use it.

10. Meeting Closure

As there were no further questions, the Shire President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 11:29am

I hereby certify these Minutes as being confirmed in accordance with Section 5.22 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Presiding Member:

Date: