



**ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023
Held At The Cornerstone Function Room,
141 Vincent Street, Beverley
On Tuesday 12 December 2023
Commencing At 10am**

1. Commencement of Meeting

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

2. Attendance and Apologies

**Attendance
Councillors**

Cr D White	Shire President
Cr D Ridgway	Deputy President
Cr D Brown	
Cr D Davis	
Cr S Martin	
Cr J Maxwell	

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
Mr L Shaw	Mr R Parrick	Mr M Vivian
Mrs B Vivian	Mrs S Collins	Ms J Foster
Ms S Ives		

Apologies

Cr A Sattler	Mrs A Fleay	Mr F Bremner
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3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

MAE1/1223

Moved: Cr S Martin

Seconded: Mrs G Petchell

That the Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2022, held in the Cornerstone Function Room, 141 Vincent Street, Beverley, on Wednesday 7 December 2022, be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

5. Adoption of 2022-2023 Annual Report

MAE2/1223

Moved: Cr D Ridgway

Seconded: Cr S Martin

That the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Shire President's Report

The Shire President read the following report:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the Electors' meeting for 2023. As we take time to reflect on the year passed and look forward to projects planned for next year and beyond.

Recent Elections

With recent elections, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Chris Lawlor on his re-election and Mrs. Dee Ridgway and Mr. Darryl Brown on their elections. Although one might well say of the latter two, on their 're-elections'.

It is important to also note and thank the outgoing Councillors Mr. Peter Gogol, Mr. Tim Seed, and Mr. Matt Norman for their service to the Shire and community during their tenure. Peter Gogol served for 16 years, Tim Seed for 6 years and Matt Norman just under two years.

On behalf of the community; Thank You.

Vincent Street

The Defects Liability Period for Vincent Street ended on 10th October this year and Management have been working with GHD and MG Group to identify issues that require attention. Among these is the failure of some bituminised areas along the street where water has caused the surface to move and crack.

Arrangements are now in place to rectify these areas in January 2024 when the street will be at its quietest. Those areas requiring repair will be closed off to traffic while repairs are effected. This will necessitate the removal of the bitumen and cement stabilisation before the replacement of the hotmix. This will be an inconvenience for the period of the repairs and we ask your patience while this is being carried out.

During the week of the Planning Institute of Australia Awards held recently, Beverley nominated the Vincent Street project for two categories being "Great Place" and "Best Regional Project". In both categories Beverley was awarded High Commendation for the project and it was additionally pleasing when some attendees offered their personal congratulations to Beverley.

Roads and Bridges

In last year's report I informed the meeting that a greater focus on roads and bridges would be a priority for 2023. The bridges in the Shire were suitable once for small loads but now must meet the needs of Road Trains and heavier farm machinery. Completed in the first half of the previous century, most bridges have also deteriorated with time and while annual maintenance has always been carried out, it cannot stop the natural deterioration.

During the year, funding has been secured through Main Roads to begin the upgrading and renewal process. The Bridge on Bremner Road is due to renewal in 2024 and funding has been acquired for the bridge on the York Williams road number 3197, the one near George Smith's property.

All this was not helped when we had the short but severe thunderstorm in March of this year. The damage to roads and culverts was considerable. At an estimated cost of around \$3 million, it was beyond the Shire's financial ability to deal. An application to DFES to have our area declared a disaster area to enable an application for emergency funding was lodged in April was approved at the end of May. Ongoing dealings with DFES in this matter would be greatly assisted if Main Roads were involved in the assessment process.

An engineering Firm, HC Constructions, has finalised a full report on the damage and we can now apply for the necessary funding to make the repairs. From this work HC Constructions have identified about 500 sites throughout the Shire.

An invitation was also made to the Minister for Roads Rita Saffiotti to visit Beverley to familiarise herself with the considerable damage facing us. Further invitations have subsequently been made without any result.

This year a decision was also made to employ contractors to undertake work on certain road construction to allow the outside crew to concentrate on maintenance and sheeting. The firm of Earthstyle Contracting has been engaged and they have

completed their first contract on the Mawson Road. Work on the Waterhatch Road and Morbinning Road will follow in the new year.

Swimming Pool

A complete design and plan for the redevelopment of the swimming pool area was completed some years ago and the project stands shovel ready. As I pointed out last year, the cost of the project has increased by about 90% reaching a point that it is now beyond our means to complete in one stage.

It was therefore decided to break it into stages with Stage 1 being the renewal of the Plant room, plumbing, installation of a wet deck, new diving blocks, a ramp and staircase for disabled, and some landscaping. Tenders will be called for this first stage to provide an idea of the cost. An application for Grant funding and the raising of a new loan of up to \$1million is planned to enable this Stage to be carried out. Naturally, the price of Tenders will determine whether we will be able to go through with it.

Nurses' Quarters

Discussions with Landgate over the acquisition of the Nurses' Quarters has been ongoing for some time. An initial proposal from Landgate was that the Shire purchase the site for \$100,000. Such a purchase price was never envisioned in preliminary discussions so it came as quite a surprise.

Further proposals were considered until the Shire and Landgate were able to come to an agreement that the Shire would apply for a Management Order over the land and building. We are still awaiting the finalisation of this application and until it is received, we can do nothing to progress this project. At this stage the Shire has not settled on any definite plan for the building although many suggestions have come from the community.

Accommodation for Health Workers

Last year the Shire was visited by two people from the Health Department to discuss the possibility of the Shire building accommodation for Nurses and other Health workers in Beverley which would be leased by the Health Department. This accommodation would be available for regional use with surrounding towns being able to utilise it. While the Shire was encouraged to consider this proposal, no further contact has been received from the Health Department.

Old School Building

Plans to convert this building into a formal Civic Centre also accommodating Council Chambers, are now well in hand and the work should be commenced this year. This will help relieve some pressure in the current Shire offices where space is at a

premium. Moving the library into the Cornerstone Building was a first step to ensure that we don't have to face the construction of a new Administration Building.

HC Constructions is the firm who have been engaged to manage this project.

For the monthly markets, it is envisaged at this point, that they might be accommodated in the Town Hall. A final decision will be made after further consultation with the organisers.

Beverley 2035

Finally, we come to a potential project that has very recently been identified but has yet to go to full Council for discussion and approval. A federal government funding scheme known as Regional Precincts and Partnership Program is open for application for projects that are based on partnerships covering a relevant area identified as a Precinct.

Divided into two Stages, with Stage one being funding just for planning and Stage two, being applications for funding for the actual work.

At this stage I am unable say more as we are very much in the initial stage of considering what this all means and how we might participate to enable Beverley to achieve the projects of which we are currently aware.

Among these projects we can include the swimming pool, the Hunt Road Village expansion, extension of the deep sewerage, a new Child Day-Care Centre, assistance to expand HACC services for the elderly, the Nurses' Quarters, Avondale, extension to the Recreation Centre and others yet to be fixed.

It is very early days and determination from Council is required before an approach can be adopted to enable Council to proceed. Mark Casserly has been tentatively engaged to assist the Council with this project and all of this will be discussed at next week's Council meeting.

Unfortunately, this programme has a very tight timetable and there is a lot to be considered. It opened in August 2023 and closes in late 2026. It is also limited in its funding. The total fund is only \$400 million for the whole of Australia. \$80 million for Stage one and \$320 million for Stage two.

Outlook

As we step into 2024, we do so with optimism necessary to plan to achieve for Beverley, all the projects that we would like to improve the facilities and amenity of Beverley to make it a prime place to live and visit.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and thank:

1. The Councillors who have put in a significant effort and given me great support;
2. All the do not staff, both inside and out, for their efforts;
3. To the senior staff and Stephen Gollan who provides exemplary leadership and who is always willing to meet with community members; and.
4. To all the community organisations of every nature and the volunteers, for your efforts to make a difference to life in Beverley.

Finally. On behalf of Council, may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and may 2024 be all you hope for and that brings peace and prosperity.

7. Annual Report Questions

Nil

(Ms Sherelle Ives asked a question unrelated to the Annual Report)

8. General Business

Written questions received:

8.1 – Mrs B Vivan

Is it possible to have the road marking, depicting the lawful place to stop, before proceeding through the intersection at Vincent Street and Forrest Street, moved a little forward?

Yes, Staff will contact Main Roads to have them review the intersection and repainted if approved.

8.2 – Mr L Shaw

My question is there any thought of modifying the parking spaces in the main street so that the entry and exit points are not at right angles but can be sloped to 45 degrees. This would enable cars to park without running over the steep curb.

At this point, Council is not proposing to alter the current curbing. A number of garden beds will have the roadside edges filled to make it easier should vehicles inadvertently drive over them.

Also the removal of the large stones which at the moment do not serve any real purpose would save a lot of unnecessary damage to cars.

A number of the stones have been and will be relocated or moved to avoid any damage to cars whilst parking.

In response, Mr L Shaw asked, can Council consider in the future if funding becomes available?

Noted

8.3 – Mrs J Rayner

When will the Airport Lighting be installed?

A tender has been awarded. Installation will commence in February 2024. The lights will be hardwired.

When will the DEFIB signage be placed around town?

The CEO commented at the meeting that this had not been done yet. However, on review, three signs have been displayed. The rest of the signs will be placed at the requested locations in January 2024.

The nuts on the footpath around the hospital are still a concern, can something please be done?

The CEO will ask gardening staff to attend to this regularly.

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

8.4 – Mr L Shaw

Is there a cost for the Old School Building construction?

The cost is approximately \$624,000.00

8.5 – Mrs J Foster

Is there a date for the commencement of construction the Old School Building?

There is a meeting with the contractors next Wednesday (20 December 2023). Once Council knows more, they will be in contact about the Markets.

8.6 – Ms S Ives

Thanked Council for providing good accommodation at the caravan park.

Noted

9. Meeting Closure

As there were no further questions, the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 10:24am.

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

Presiding Member:

Date: