



Shire of Northam  
*Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle*

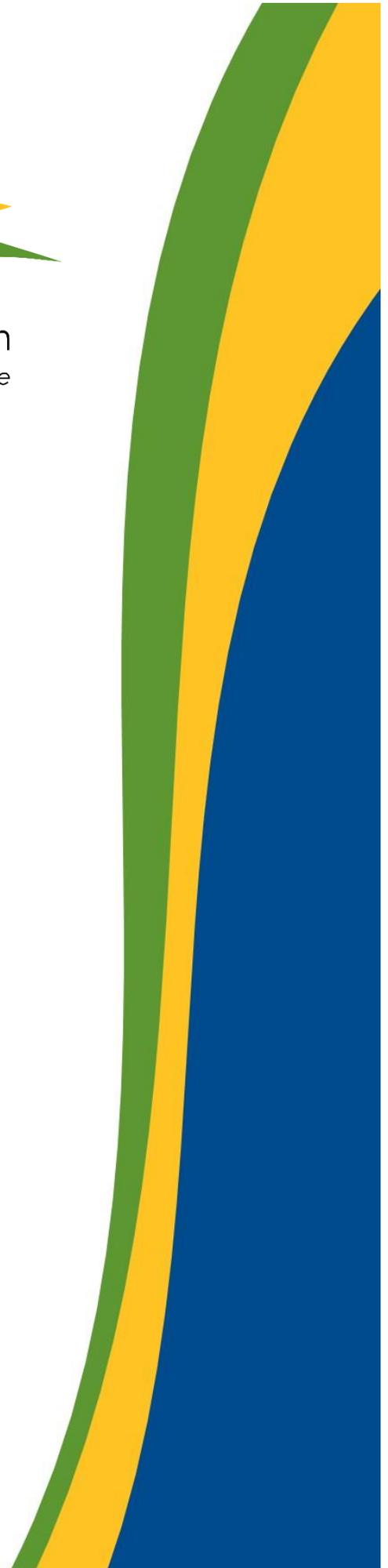
# **Shire of Northam**

**Notes**

**Wundowie Community**

**Meeting**

**29 November 2017**



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## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President, Cr C Antonio declared the meeting open at 6:05pm and thanked all for attending.

Cr Antonio introduced himself advising that he represents the East Ward of the Shire, originally from Southern Brook. Cr Antonio commented that the ward system assists in ensuring that there is representation for the whole Shire.

Cr Antonio continued to introduce the Councillors present at the meeting being Cr Pollard, Cr Williams and Cr Little advising that Cr Della and Cr Mencshelyi will be arriving late.

## 2. ATTENDANCE

### Council:

Shire President  
Councillor:

C Antonio  
S Pollard  
T Little  
J Williams  
C Della at 6:16pm  
A Mencshelyi at 6:18pm

### Staff:

Chief Executive Officer	J Whiteaker
Executive Manager Development Services	C Hunt
Executive Manager Engineering Services	C Kleynhans
Executive Manager Corporate Services	C Young
Executive Manager Community Services	R Rayson
Executive Assistant – CEO	A Maxwell
Manager Information and Digital Innovation	K Colbourne
Customer Service Officer	K Hopkins
Plant Operator / General Hand	M Williams

### Community Members:

Suzanne Tingley	Jarrad Nation
Ella Plazier	Trish Hamilton
Kaye Towle	Dorris Coombs
Lyn Rogers	Helen Begg
Richard Joyce	James Buchanan
Bill Pearce	Dave Galloway
James Garrihy	Henry Walling
Des Biglin	Peter Broad
Phil Freeman	Kerryanne Williams
Brent Roberts	

### **3. BUSINESS**

The Shire President handed over to the Chief Executive Officer to provide an overview of what is currently or proposed to occur in the area.

The Chief Executive Officer introduced himself and the staff in attendance being the Executive Assistant – CEO and the Executive Managers of Corporate, Community Development and Engineering Services and outlined their roles in the Shire of Northam.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the purpose of the meeting is to provide the community with an update and then open it up to the community to raise matters with Council. The responses will be open and honest and that everyone be respectful at the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that notes will be taken from the meeting and circulated to the community through the Wundowie Progress Association. The meeting notes allow for items requiring attention to be recorded into Council's system to monitor and track, also provides a point of reference for the Community to ensure meeting items are not lost or forgotten.

Two community members entered the meeting at 6:08pm.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he will provide an overview rather than each Executive Manager, which is what occurred at previous meetings, after the update it will be opened to the community members present to raise any matters they wish to discuss.

#### **3.1 Shire of Northam Overview**

The Chief Executive Officer advised that it was approximately 8 months ago when the last meeting was held and at this meeting the Wundowie Community Plan was launched.

The Council has recently resolved to hold a Forum and Ordinary Council meeting in Wundowie, Bakers Hill and Grass Valley once a year as part of its commitment to engage with surrounding communities. Advertising of the meeting will be undertaken prior to this being held.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he and the Executive Manager Community Services recently met with the Wundowie Progress Association, approximately 1 month ago. Community members were encourage to talk with their Progress Association as they provide advice and guidance to Council.

The Wundowie Community Plan was discussed and its purpose was outlined. The Chief Executive Officer advised that it is intended to be fluid and flexible and the actions identified be driven by the community as it is their plan and outlines what they want achieved as identified through the consultation process.

The action for identifying a central hub/precinct around the football clubrooms was discussed. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council will engage someone to talk to the community and Progress Association to identify what the community wants. The Chief Executive Officer encouraged the community to be engaged and involved in this process.

The action for resurfacing the basketball court was identified in the plan through the consultation process. It was advised that this is likely to be undertaken in late March/early April.

The action for undertaking an assessment of the Wundowie pool was discussed. The Chief Executive Officer advised that this involved engaging an aquatic engineer to establish what the condition and remaining useful life of the pool is, what remedial action can be undertaken and some recommendations/direction in order for the Council to make a decision.

The Chief Executive Officer mentioned that there has been a concept for providing a bus service from Wundowie to Northam. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council's intent was not to take business away from local shops, but to provide an opportunity for residents to get into Northam to attend functions, medical appointments sporting events etc. It was advised that Officer's will be having conversations with the Progress Association in relation to this matter and maybe look at running a trial to see if this is sustainable.

Cr Della entered the meeting at 6:16pm.

Mauravillo Estate was discussed, it was stated that there is no significant financial exposure to Council however the Chief Executive Officer advised that they are concerned about the potential impact on people who have invested in the development. Discussions have been held with the 'Receivers' and it is understood that another 'investor' will be taking over the development. It was identified that one positive from this unfortunate situation is that the two stages of commenced were generally completed, so the development has not been left 'half finished'. The Chief Executive Officer further advised that Mauravillo is a very good development for the Shire of Northam and Wundowie community, and Council is also very cognisant of the impact it has had on the original developer, who in the past has shown a significant commitment to the area.

Cr Mencshelyi entered the meeting at 6:18pm.

The Orange Route was discussed. The Chief Executive Officer advised that this has been approximately a 30 year concept and is designed to get the heavy haulage off of Great Eastern Highway from Clackline through to 'red hill' on the Toodyay Road. It was raised that this still requires a significant amount of planning which will cost in excess of \$1b. It was stated that Council has been a strong advocate for this project however there is currently no state or federal government budget/funding for this project. The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council will notify the community of any developments that occur.

The Chief Executive Officer introduced Ms Colbourne who is the Manager Information and Digital Innovation and looks after Council's libraries, including Wundowie.

### 3.2 Matters Raise by the Community

- Suzanne Tingley  
Raised that the recent footpath works near her home at 1 Lobelia Ave, Wundowie have now resulted in her gate not closing properly, water flooding her property/house and stray animals accessing her property under the gate due to their now being a gap. This has resulted in several of her animals being killed. Ms Tingley has also spent \$200 on fill sand (which has now washed away) as she has been unable to get her car into her property.

It was commented that the Shire Rangers had attended, were brilliant and caught the dogs which had killed her animals. It was further raised that everyone has been delightful to talk to however is frustrated as nothing is being done to resolve the issue.

Response: The Executive Manager Engineering Services advised that he had met with the Operations Team last week and will be undertaking an onsite inspection with rectification being undertaken in the next few weeks.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he will have a look on the system to see how many time Ms Tingley had called and get a better appreciation of how long the issue has been outstanding.

- Phil Freeman  
Raised communication issues. He outlined that he reported the footpath on the corner of Hovea and Zamia being dangerous with his wife falling off of her wheelchair. He raised that he had received a letter advising that it had been completed when no works had been undertaken. The

work has now been completed however stated that the Council and CEO should be dismissed.

Another issue was the footpath on Hovea Crescent, he had been regularly advised that this will be in next year's budget however this never occurs.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer sought confirmation that the footpath on the corner of Hovea Crescent and Zamia Terrace had been completed. In relation to the communication matter, The Chief Executive Officer advised that communication should be made through the Administration Centre so this can be logged/tracked.

- James Buchanan  
Further to Mr Freeman, it was raised that the footpath along Hovea Crescent from the park to Zamia Terrace does not meet Australian Standards and is dangerous. Mr Buchanan advised that people walk on the road rather than the footpath as they believe it is safer.
- Kerryanne Williams  
Further to Mr Buchanan, Mrs Williams also raised this issue as her son is blind and cannot walk on the footpath, in addition they are regularly being told that it will be addressed in next year's budget but nothing ever occurs. It was raised that they felt like they were not getting treated equally compared to the town.

Response: In response to Mr Buchanan and Mrs Williams, The Chief Executive Officer advised that he would look at the footpath after the meeting providing it did not finish too late. He advised that he is more than happy to meet with people if they do not feel they are getting traction. The Chief Executive Officer advised that there are a range of factors when determining the coming years program outlining that Council does not do work unless it is required. An example is resurfacing a road which appeared to be sound however had sub-soil issues. Officers will undertake assessments, look at the issues, condition and number of complaints etc, and from this make a recommendation to Council.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council spends approximately 70% of its road budget in the rural areas, stating that the perception that nothing is ever done in rural areas is incorrect. It was further advised that the Council is working within limited capacity and everyone's road or

footpath near their house is the most important to them, however when making decisions around the program, consideration needs to be given to the entire Shire and the priority.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73645.

- Phil Freeman  
Raised that he met the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Manager Community Services at the Library in 2015 and made a complaint in relation to footpath on Hovea Crescent and nothing was done about this.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council is not a complaints driven organisation and assess work, prioritise and make a decision in the context of the whole Shire requirements.

- Bill Pearce  
It was raised that there appears to be a communication issue as a lot of this does not appear to go through the Progress Association.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Progress Association works on the communities behalf and strongly encouraged communication through the Progress Association as Council wants to see these active and thriving.

In relation to the upgrade the current football club to create a central recreation hub, it was queried whether a consultant is required, and whether this can be undertaken through the Progress Association in the first instance as they represent and understand what the community want.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that this is an option and encouraged the Progress Association to drive the project. It was advised that once the direction is clear, engagement of a professional such as a drafts person would be required.

The Executive Manager Community Services advised that he will meet with the Progress Association in relation to this matter and requested that they make contact/invite him to one of their meetings.

- Ella Plazier

Raised that there is an issue with the irrigation for the ovals stating the workers are regularly looking at this. It was believed that this is not working and it is now going yellow.

Response: The Executive Manager Engineering Services confirmed he would review how the irrigation is working. The Wundowie dam is required to water 3 ovals and as a result the ovals are watered once or twice a week depending on the usage of the oval.

The Chief Executive Officer commented that he believed the ovals looked good when driving into Wundowie.

The Executive Manager Engineering Services advised that he will confirm that the irrigation is working in all areas of the oval.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73626.

- Richard Joyce

Advised that the work undertaken approximately two years ago was of a very high standard however recently some slashing was undertaken and the grass didn't cut and just pushed this over.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that he is very proud of the work that the staff do believes they generally do a very good job, notwithstanding sometimes small things are missed. The Chief Executive Officer encouraged matters such as this to be raised when they occur so that they can be addressed at that time.

Mr Joyce also raised the speed sign of 80km/h along Hawke Avenue and whether this can be reduced as many people use the track from Hyde Drive to Acacia Retreat for horse and bike riding etc, in addition there is an increasing number of crossovers.

Response: The Executive Manager Engineering Services advised that speed signage is a Main Roads WA regulatory matter and they require a recommendation from the local government to change the speed limit, they will then undertake an assessment from this. This has already been undertaken however Officers can forward its recommendation again due to the increased number of crossovers.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73628.

- Ella Plazier  
Commended the volunteer fire brigade in Wundowie for service they provided to burn peoples properties for a donation.
- Henry Walling  
Raised that there are two speed limits coming into the town.

Response: It was advised that this was a Main Roads regulatory matter. In order to change this it would require a recommendation from the local government which will result in Main Roads assessing the signage.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73630.

- Brent Roberts  
It was queried whether Council supports local employment.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council does support local employment however also recognises that it needs to employ the most suitable person for the position and ensures this through a rigorous recruitment process, often receiving up to 30 applications for positions.

- James Buchanan  
Raised antisocial behaviour in the area, stating that the Shire should put pressure onto the Police to address this issue.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that this is not a Council matter however Council has taken a leadership role in relation to this. Examples of action taken is by coordinating the Senior Police Officer (Superintendent) for the region to meet with the community and also putting in a grant for improving the CCTV. It was also stated that Council does work closely with the Police, however raised that the community has an important role to play in reporting matters and logging them into the system which would allow them to identify the area as a hotspot and then the Police can allocate resources accordingly.

Mr Buchanan also raised the new electronic sign on Great Eastern Highway stating that it is dangerous, unattractive/does not blend with

environment and a distraction, requesting that it be pulled down as this area is a blackspot.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that this sign has been approved by Council. Council consulted with Main Roads WA who rejected a number of location however raised no concerns with the current location.

- Phil Freeman  
Raised that there are tree roots coming through the road near Kingia Road and Balga Terrace.

Response: This will be recorded in Council's Customer Request system for Engineering Service to assess.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73633.

Mr Freeman also raised that a portion of kerbing has been cut out from a property near the corner of Kingia Road and Banksia Avenue (as you turn down Wattle Crescent).

Response: This will be recorded in Council's Customer Request system for Engineering Service to assess.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73639.

- Ella Plazier  
It was queried whether the CCTV cameras are working and beneficial.

Response: The Executive Manager Community Services advised that it is understood that these are working, how often they are used is unknown as they are monitored/used by the Police.

It was raised that the CCTV alone is useless and the community need to report matters.

- James Buchanan  
It was raised that the Kep Track is underutilised and a wasted resource. A suggestion was made to have a tram/transport linkage between Clackline and the City of Swan.

Response: The Executive Manager Development Services advised that the majority of the track within the Shire of Northam is Unallocated Crown Land and hence not the direct

responsibility of the Shire and is generally under the management of the National Trust. The Shire of Northam has previously considered the management and potential upgrading of the track however due to cost implications did not proceed with that option.

- Phil Freeman

It was queried whether more dog bag stations can be placed around the oval toward the school.

Response: This will be recorded in Council's Customer Request system.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73671.

- Richard Joyce

Raised whether signage on Great Eastern Highway, near Coates Road is approved, and if not can it be addressed as it is not fair to those that have followed the approval process.

Response: The Executive Manager Development Services advised that Officer's will look at this matter.

This matter has been allocated Customer Request No: ICS73672.

- Kerryanne Williams

It was queried whether there can be better communication in relation to the events occurring in the Shire.

Response: The Chief Executive Officer advised that Council undertakes a range of advertising through its newsletter, Facebook page, website and newspapers, in addition large events are advertised on the radio and people need to use one of these channels to become informed.

Ms Colbourne advised that she can place the flyers at the Library when events are being held.

#### 4. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

The Shire President, Cr C Antonio declared the meeting closed at 7:30pm and thanked everyone for attending.