



SHIRE OF NORTHAM

ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2012

Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting

**Held at the Shire of Northam Administration Office, at 395 Fitzgerald Street
Northam, on Wednesday, 19 December 2012 at 4.30pm.**

The President, Cr S B Pollard, declared the meeting open at 4.34pm.

1. ATTENDANCE

Councillors
(Town Ward)

S B Pollard(President)
R W Tinetti
D A Hughes
R M Head (arrived 5:20)

(West Ward)

T M Little
A W Llewellyn
J E Williams
U Rumjantsev

(Central Ward)

(East Ward)

K D Saunders

Staff

A/Chief Executive Officer
Executive Manager Development Services
Executive Manager Community Services

C B Hunt
P B Steven
J McGready

Electors/Residents

Ms Jan James
Mr Richard Brazier
Mr Ruscoe
Mr Michael Letch
Ms Tanya Richardson
Ms Jayne Hammond
Ms Robyn Larkin

Mr Mike Tighe
Mrs Sue Tighe
Ms Sally Hart
Mrs Anne Letch
Mr John Proud
Mr Peter Hammond
Ms Belle Moore

Ms Anne Cooke
Mr John Cooke
Mr Angus Cooke
Mr Grant Cooke
Mrs Debbie Hughes
Mr Paul Brown

2. APOLOGIES

Cr D G Beresford
Cr R M Head

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING HELD 14 DECEMBER 2011 FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Cr KD Saunders
SECONDED: Cr U Rumjantsev**

That the minutes of the Shire of Northam Annual Electors Meeting held on 14 December 2011 be received.

CARRIED 7/0

4. RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2011/2012 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Cr Little raised the issue of a \$10million excess in Shire funds this year and asked Council to provide a possible list of reasons as to why this may be.

Cr Pollard and Mr Hunt indicated that \$8.5 million can be accounted for from the SuperTowns grant that the Shire received in June 2012. They believe that the other \$1.5 million was generated from additional program based grants received throughout the year. It was stated that no profits are made from the levying of Rates.

RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Cr U Rumjantsev
SECONDED: Cr TM Little**

That the Shire of Northam Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012, as presented, be received.

CARRIED 7/0

5. RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Cr JE Williams
SECONDED: Cr DA Hughes**

That the Shire of Northam Auditor's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2012, be adopted.

CARRIED 7/0

6. RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Cr DA Hughes
SECONDED: Mr M Letch**

That the President's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2012 as presented, be received.

CARRIED 7/0

7. RECEIVAL AND ADOPTION OF OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr JE Williams
SECONDED: Cr KD Saunders

That the Reports by the Chief Executive Officer, Project Manager Community Infrastructure, Executive Manager Community Services, Executive Manager Development Services, Executive Manager Corporate Services, and Managers of Killara, Library, Recreation and Visitor Services for the year ended 30 June 2012 as presented in the Annual Report be received.

CARRIED 7/0

8. GENERAL BUSINESS OR OTHER BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OR AS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORS PRESENT

8.1 FUTURE OF THE HUGO THROSSELL VC PORTRAIT

Mr Brazier queried the future of the Hugo Throssell VC portrait that is currently at the centre of much public debate. It is his understanding that the portrait has been in storage for far too long, and that it is in need of repair. He then stated that the Department of Veteran Affairs has a grant available for instances such as this, and that he believes we fit the criteria. His view is that it should be displayed, and that if we cannot ensure the security of the portrait, at the very least a good quality copy should be produced for public viewing within the Shire.

Mr Letch was able to address Mr Brazier's concerns due to his position as current Chairperson of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee. Mr Letch agreed that the portrait should be on display. He stated that the security of the portrait is very important; therefore the decision of where it should be hung is crucial. He further added that to his knowledge there is a recent report from Council to the effect that the portrait is in excellent condition, and that no known restoration or renovation work is needed at this time.

8.2 RENAMING OF AVON MALL

Mr Brazier requested an update on the progress of the application to rename the Avon Mall to be known as Hugo Throssell Walk.

Cr Pollard indicated that the Geographic Lands Committee have rejected this application, but that Council intends to further their efforts

8.3 RURAL AREAS MAINTENANCE

Mr Brazier raised the concerns of rural electors with regards to road maintenance issues. He stated that Shire workers did a very good job on their last visit, but feels that rural areas may not get as much attention as Town areas. Her feeling is that the turnover of staff is too high, and that we will have to spend money to source staff.

Mr Hunt replied, confirming that we are aware of the issue, and this is such, due to the difficulty of finding experienced and qualified people. He reassured the electors that we are working on the issue.

8.4 PROVISION OF BINS ON KERBSIDE

Ms Moore raised the issue of providing recycling bins for public use on the kerbsides.

Cr Pollard indicated that we are waiting for a response from Toodyay Shire which will enable us to undertake the task together. Start dates are projected for July 2013, and the partnership will ensure that the cost of the bins will be covered. We are yet to identify costs, but all plans so far indicate that this will happen before July 2013.

8.5 MENIN GATE AT MIDNIGHT

Ms James indicated that from her studies of the Northam Advertiser recently, she has uncovered information regarding the painting. 400 copies were given to the Commonwealth, one of which was to Northam. She would like to know where it is at present, and what our plans are for its future.

Mr Letch answered that it is not on our current list of artworks, but that we will make every effort to find it.

8.6 NORTHAM CEMETERY

Ms James questioned the upkeep of Northam Cemetery.

Mr Hunt indicated that at this stage, we cannot comment on the current state of the Cemetery, but that we will be sure to investigate. There is a possibility that we can make an allocation in the maintenance budget to cover this.

8.7 GENERAL MAINTENANCE POLICY

Mr Hammond asked about the policies regarding general maintenance in public open spaces, specifically Woodley Farm Drive. He believes that in a few instances around the Shire, mowing may be necessary, rather than spraying, so that the area may re-vegetate.

Mr Hunt thanked Mr Hammond for his contributions to Shire upkeep, and stated that the matter will be sent to the Engineering staff for attention.

8.8 WATSONIA ERADICATION

Mrs Letch stated that the Watsonia plants are now down to a much lower level than before, except for on one private property. She has contacted the landowner, as she believes that policy states that this must be cleared, but has had no response.

Mr Steven indicated that it has been practise in the past for Council to give permission for spraying to be done, and for the bill to be forwarded on.

8.9 TRAFFIC SIGNS

Mr Letch raised the issue of the two newly erected signs on private properties (one for Linley Valley, and one for McDonalds). His question is how we control illegal or unpopular advertising in the Shire.

Cr Pollard replied that as Linley Valley is a commercial operator, they have a right to advertise as long as they stay within the advertising laws. For the McDonald's sign, Main Roads give criteria which they must follow.

Mr Steven stated that Policy is the only way to limit this. We may need to create a policy so that all rules are uniform to avoid future confusion.

8.10 TOWN ENTRY SIGNS

Mr Letch expressed his concern regarding the proposed SuperTowns addition to the current Northam town entry sign.

Mr Hunt assured Mr Letch that this will be for Northam business only. There will be no allowance for commercial or private advertising.

Mr Letch then stated that he believes the sign should be in keeping with the current structure.

8.11 FLOODING OF MINSON AVE

Cr Saunders brought to the meeting a selection of questions from Mr Malinowski.

The first was the persistent flooding of Minson Avenue during periods of heavy rainfall.

Mr Hunt assured her that with the various drainage programs underway, this problem will not be an issue much longer. Steps are being taken to rectify the problem.

8.12 ROAD GRADING/MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

Mr Malinowski was also concerned that he had received no reply to his requests for road grading work to be carried out.

Mr Lee replied that the works department do try to respond to all requests within a set time frame, and that current technological issues have caused many problems.

8.13 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Mr Malinowski raised the issue of the fact that an objector to an Agenda Item is often not notified of the item going to Council.

Mr Steven assured him that there does exist a standard letter to say that the issue is going to the next Council meeting, and also one to detail the outcome of that meeting.

8.14 AVON VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

Mr Malinowski asked whether \$3.2million was to be spent on floating islands for the Avon River.

Mr Hunt stated that the funds will go to not only the floating islands, but to other aspects of River maintenance, and drainage.

8.15 CLACKLINE HALL FLOODING

Cr Hughes asked if any steps are being taken to resolve flooding issues on Dyer road in Clackline, as no communication has been received.

Mr Hunt indicated that the issue will be investigated.

9. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Officer, Cr SB Pollard declared the meeting closed at 5.44PM.

"I certify that the Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on Wednesday 19 December 2012 have been confirmed as a true and correct record"

_____ President

_____ Date