



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON
19 FEBRUARY 2016**

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**Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting held in the Council
Chambers on Friday, 19 February 2016 at 2.00pm**

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

In absence of the Chairperson Ms Rose Power, the nominated Chairperson Mr Denis Beresford declared the meeting open at 2.10pm.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Parts of Division 6 Subdivision 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council members and employees to disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or general interest in any matter listed in this agenda.

The Act also requires the nature of the interest to be disclosed in writing before the meeting or immediately before the matter being discussed.

NB A Council member who makes a disclosure must not preside or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the disclosed matter unless the procedures set out in Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Act have been complied with.

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

Councillor	D G Beresford
Councillor	J Williams
Councillor	C Davidson
Executive Manager Community Services	Ross Rayson
Northam Police	Geoff Dixon
Department of Housing	Attila Mencshelyi
Health Representative	Greg Bentley
Community Representative	Margaret O'Reilly
Community Representative	Terry Munday
Local Drug Action Group	Kendra Grace
Local Youth Service Representative	James West
Department Sport and Recreation	Jenifer Collins
Department Education	Sharon Bray

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Community Development Officer	Michelle Blackhurst
Department Child Protection and Family Support	Dawn Lamperd
Main Roads Western Australia	Elizabeth Davies

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4. APOLOGIES

LDAG
Northam Chamber of Commerce
Northam Roadwise Committee

Rose Power
Max Hubble
Cliff Simpson

5. ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

In accordance with section 5.12 of the Local Government Act 1995. The members of a committee are to elect a presiding member from amongst themselves in accordance with Schedule 2.3, Division 1.

The members of a committee may elect a deputy presiding member from amongst themselves but any such election is to be in accordance with Schedule 2.3, Division 2.

Should the presiding member not be available or is unable or unwilling to perform the functions of presiding member, then the deputy presiding member, if any, may perform the functions of presiding member.

OUTCOME

Cr Julie Williams was nominated by Cr Denis Beresford. Cr Williams accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations.

Cr Beresford declared Cr Williams elected as the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee Presiding Member, and Cr Williams took the Chair.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION

Minute No: **CSC.020**

Moved: **Cr Denis Beresford**

Seconded: **Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson**

That the minutes of the meeting held Thursday, 27 August 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED 13/0

7. AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 POLICE ACTION ON DRUG HOUSES IN THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Item 8.1 was brought forward due to the inability of Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson to attend to the close of the meeting.

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Mrs Michelle Blackhurst presented questions to Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson that were received from Committee members via email in the days leading up to the meeting.

Question: What is the current Police action on drug houses in the Shire of Northam?

Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson advised that there is a focus on a number of houses in Northam and there are currently a number of ongoing operations. There are an increased number of high visibility patrols taking place day and night. Senior Sergeant Dickson said that there has been a large amount of direct intervention, some of which will yield quick results and some will take longer as the Police build the judicial record. Generating a drug warrant is not simple as it requires evidence. Information from the community is valuable and it is all used to build that judicial record.

Cr Chris Davidson raised the question: What is the current Policing situation in Wundowie? He explained that he had experienced an inconsistency of Police presence in Wundowie and wanted to clarify the reasons why.

Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson advised that the Wundowie Police Station was not managed through the Northam Police Station so he was unable to provide an update on the matter. Senior Sergeant Dickson suggested that an Officer in Charge of the Wundowie Police Station would soon be available in a permanent capacity and he would recommend that the Community Safety Committee invites this person to attend future meetings.

7.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

Name of Applicant:	Shire of Northam
Name of Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Ref:	1.3.12.1
Officer:	Ross Rayson
Officer Interest:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Voting:	N/A
Date:	17 February 2016

PURPOSE

To update the Committee on the progress of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.

BACKGROUND

The data from the previous Plan has now been reviewed and this along with the results from the Community Perception Survey, the Community Perception focus groups,

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statistical data and feedback from Committee members and other stakeholders, a simple action based Community Safety Strategy has been developed and is in draft format.

The CSCP Plan 2016-2020 has brought all of the current data together to help the Committee to understand 'What is the Northam story'. This will help the Shire of Northam to reconcile where the facts and the perceptions differ. Available for viewing at the meeting is:

- Community Safety and Crime Prevention Action Plan Draft
- Community Perception Survey
- Community focus group report – Improving Community Safety

The Community Safety Committee are well positioned to provide advice on the draft Plan.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

STRATEGY: Provide an environment that enhances and builds on the liveability of the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Committee was provided with a copy of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and Mrs Michelle Blackhurst, together with Senior Sergeant Geoff Dickson spoke on the development of the Plan.

Senior Sergeant Dickson explained to the Committee that there was not a requirement for the Plan to be as detailed as the previous Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and that the Shire of Northam and the Northam Police have been working collaboratively to simplify the Plan and make it more relevant and achievable.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan is a living document and the intention is for this document to be updated as actions are completed and new actions are introduced.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst asked that the Committee review the initial draft of the Plan and advise additional actions that could be included, whether the actions be existing projects that are already being delivered in the Shire of Northam, or new initiatives that the Committee would like to implement.

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7.2 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Name of Applicant:	Shire of Northam
Name of Owner:	Shire of Northam
File Ref:	1.3.12.1
Officer:	Michelle Blackhurst
Officer Interest:	N/A
Policy:	N/A
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	17 February 2016

PURPOSE

To develop an Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan (AODMP).

BACKGROUND

The first AODMP has now been endorsed. This has included a number of meetings with the Drugs and Alcohol Office and stakeholders participating in a workshop to gather information for the plan.

The AODMP is a plan that articulates what will happen at a local level to create change in the identified issue.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

N/A

CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment that provides for a caring and healthy community.

STRATEGY: Provide an environment that enhances and builds on the liveability of the Shire.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICER'S COMMENT

Ms Kendra Grace from Holyoake advised that the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan was endorsed and launched today. The Plan was developed through collaboration with a number of local key stakeholders.

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The Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan was a key action of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and it will assist the community to work together to achieve change.

Mr Ross Rayson congratulated Ms Kendra Grace and the AODMP Committee on their achievement in developing the Plan.

8. OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr Attila Mencshelyi, representing the Senior Managers Forum spoke on youth engagement in the Shire of Northam and the Wheatbelt region. The Senior Managers Forum feel that the lack of youth engagement is having a large impact on community safety and crime prevention and they would like to see some linkages forged between the Shires to apply for funding collaboratively. Mrs Michelle Blackhurst will search for possible funding opportunities and advise the committee when funding becomes available. In addition to this contact will be made with other Wheatbelt Shires to determine what they currently have in place to engage their youth.

Mrs Michelle Blackhurst will forward to the group the list of existing youth engagement opportunities in the Shire of Northam and asks that the group advise of any updates that are required.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Friday, 15 April 2016 at 2pm.

10. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

The meeting was officially closed at 3.10pm.