



ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS)**
Extraordinary Council Election - Declaration (form 7) to be made by newly elected Councillor, Lucia Varone.

- 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 4 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
 - 5.1 Shire of Kulin Ordinary Meeting – 17 February 2016
 - 5.2 Kulin Bush Races General Meeting – 8 March 2016

- 6 MATTERS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 6.1 List of Accounts – February 2016
 - 6.2 Financial Reports – February 2016
 - 6.3 Review of 2015-2016 Annual Budget
 - 6.4 Appointment of CEO
 - 6.5 Camp Kulin – Incorporation and Charitable Status
 - 6.6 Kent Landcare District Service
 - 6.7 Application for Planning Consent – McIntosh Pty Ltd

- 7 COMPLIANCE**
 - 7.1 Compliance Audit Return 2105

- 8 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

- 9 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING**
 - 9.1 Social Media Policy

- 10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- 11 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday 23 March 2016 commencing at 2:51pm

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The President of the Shire welcomed all present and declared the meeting opened at 2:51pm

- 1.1 Lucia Varone made a declaration (form 7) as the recently Elected Member of Council for the extraordinary vacancy in the East Ward.

Cr West congratulated Cr Varone and welcomed her to the position of Shire Councillor.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Attendance

BD West	President	West Ward
RD Duckworth	Deputy President	West Ward
MJ Ledwith	Councillor	West Ward
G Robins	Councillor	Town Ward
HT McInnes	Councillor	Town Ward
R Bowey	Councillor	Town Ward
R O'Brien	Councillor	Central Ward
BP Taylor	Councillor	Central Ward
L Varone	Councillor	East Ward
G Hadlow	Chief Executive Officer	
C Vandenberg	Deputy CEO	
L Hobson	Manager of Works	

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Shire of Kulin Ordinary Meeting – 17 February 2016

01/0316

Moved Cr Robins Seconded Cr Bowey that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried 9/0

Kulin Bush Races General Meeting – 8 March 2016

02/0316

Moved Cr Bowey Seconded Cr O'Brien that the minutes of the Kulin Bush Races General Meeting held on 8 March 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried 9/0

6 MATTERS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

6.1 List of Accounts – February 2016

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DCEO
FILE REFERENCE: 12.06
AUTHOR: DCEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

SUMMARY:

Attached are the list of accounts paid during the month of February 2016 for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

STATUTORY AND PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That February payments being cheque No 331 (Trip) No 1837 - 1843 (Bush Races), 329 - 330 (Trust Fund) 36537 – 36550 (Municipal), EFT No's 10943 - 11041 (Municipal), credit card payments, creditor payments, and other vouchers from the Municipal Fund totalling \$388,461.11 be passed for payment.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

03/0316

Moved Cr Robins Seconded Cr Taylor that February payments being cheque No 331 (Trip) No 1837 - 1843 (Bush Races), 329 - 330 (Trust Fund) 36537 – 36550 (Municipal), EFT No's 10943 - 11041 (Municipal), credit card payments, creditor payments, and other vouchers from the Municipal Fund totalling \$388,461.11 be passed for payment.

Carried 9/0

6.2 Financial Reports – February 2016

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DCEO
FILE REFERENCE: 12.01
AUTHOR: DCEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

SUMMARY:

Attached are the financial reports for the period ending 29 February 2016.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

STATUTORY AND PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires local governments to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure of funds for the month in question.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the monthly financial statements for the period ending 29 February 2016.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

04/0316

Moved Cr Duckworth Seconded Cr McInnes that Council endorse the monthly financial statements for the periods ending 29 February 2016.

Carried 9/0

6.3 Review of 2015-2016 Annual Budget

NAME OF APPLICANT: DCEO
FILE REFERENCE: 12.04
AUTHOR: DCEO

SUMMARY:

Regulation 33A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires local governments to carry out, between the 1 January and 31 March in each financial year, a review of its annual budget for that year.

BACKGROUND:

Local Governments are required to conduct a budget review between 1 January and 31 March each year. This is mandatory under Regulation 33A of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*. The thrust of the legislation is to ensure local governments conduct at least a single budget review after the half way mark of the financial year and before the completion of the ninth month.

A budget review comprises a detailed examination of year to date actual results with Council's adopted budget. Regulation 33A (2) and (3) of the FM Regulations requires the results of the budget review to be submitted to Council within 30 days of the review. Council is then to give consideration to adopting the review (or part of) and associated recommendations.

Regulations 33A (4) states that within 30 days after Council has conducted its review, a copy and recommendations are to be provided to the Department of Local Government.

COMMENT:

The review is presented in the attached report. The Report seeks to identify and quantify:

- i) the forecast year-end major variances from the adopted budget;
- ii) matters arising not currently included in the adopted budget but which are recommended for consideration of inclusion in the budget;

The review process has been undertaken having regard for:

- i) actual revenues and expenditures for the first (8) months of the financial year, a necessary indicator to informed forecasts for the remainder of the year;
- ii) forecast revenue and expenditure levels for the remaining (4) months of the year;
- iii) the more significant (in \$ terms) variances to budget rather than the many minor 'unders and overs' which, history has shown, will largely balance out;

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

STATUTORY AND TOWN PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept the recommendations as contained in the *Review of Budget for the period ending 29 February 2016* and adopt the report as presented.

05/0316

Moved Cr Robins Seconded Cr Bowey that Council accept the recommendations as contained in the *Review of Budget for the period ending 29 February 2016* and adopt the report as presented.

Carried 9/0

6.4 Appointment of CEO

NAME OF APPLICANT: CEO
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CEO
FILE REFERENCE: 22.16
AUTHOR: CEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

SUMMARY:

The Council appointed committee held interviews for a replacement CEO on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 February 2016 and have offered the position to Dirk Sellenger.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

The committee interviewed 3 prospective candidates and following discussion with referees and other necessary background checks it was agreed to recommend to Council that Mr Dirk Sellenger be appointed to the position.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Appointment required in accordance with legal requirements under the Local Government Act 1995

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Resolution 1

That Council:

- appoints Mr Dirk Sellenger to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Kulin, effective 1st October 2016

- is of the belief that Mr Sellenger is suitably qualified and experienced for the position of CEO, and
- Is satisfied with the provisions of the proposed 3 year employment contract to be entered into with Mr Sellenger for the position of CEO.

Resolution 2

That Council appoints Mr Sellenger to the position of Acting CEO for the period 2 July 2016 until 30 September 2016 until his permanent appointment effective 1st October 2016.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

The Shire President advised that since the preparation of the agenda Mr. Sellenger has withdrawn his application for the CEO position. The president advised that he is unsure of the reasons for his decision other than to say that Mr. Sellenger has decided to take on a “free-lance” within the Local Government industry.

In view of the advice from Mr. Sellenger the CEO expressed a view that Council should offer the position to the second favoured applicant. The other option was for the position to be re-advertised although this was not an ideal way forward.

06/0316

Moved Cr McInnes Seconded Cr Robins that Council readvertise the CEO position with the selection process to be carried out by the existing selection committee.

Carried 7/2

Council considered they had no option but to re-advertise the position due to the Mr. Sellenger declining the position.

Council adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:22pm

Council resumed from afternoon tea at 3:47pm

6.5 Camp Kulin – Incorporation and Charitable Status

NAME OF APPLICANT: CEO
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CEO
FILE REFERENCE: 05.20
AUTHOR: CEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

SUMMARY:

Previous discussions on the future of Camp Kulin have revolved around the fact that it is important for the body to become a separate incorporated body to enable them to achieve a charitable status. This would certainly make it easier to access future grant funding for the ongoing operation of the project.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

I have previously advised Council that I would spend some time on the incorporation process on the understanding that the new CEO would be starting at least a month before I leave on 1 July 2016. This will not happen with Dirk Sellenger indicating that he will be commencing duties around mid-June.

In view of this I propose that Council outsource the incorporation process and the preparation of documentation to enable Camp Kulin to become a Charitable Institution and I am waiting for a quote from our auditors Byfields. Hopefully I will have this information before the meeting date.

We have sufficient funds in the budget to cover the employment of a consultant for this purpose. If Council is prepared to agree to the use of a consultant then I will be able to spend time on preparing policies and operational procedures to cover the future operation of Camp Kulin. This includes financial matters and contributions, building responsibility and the like.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

We have sufficient funds in the current budget to cover the employment of a consultant for this purpose.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That subject to a satisfactory quote being received from Byfields to prepare documentation to enable Camp Kulin to become a separate incorporated and registered charitable organisation Council endorse the employment of a consultant to proceed with the process.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

07/0316

Moved Cr O'Brien Seconded Cr Robins that the CEO is authorised to employ a consultant, at a cost of approx. \$5-10k to prepare documentation to enable Camp Kulin to become a separate incorporated and registered charitable organisation.

Carried 9/0

The Resolution was altered to allow the CEO to seek quotes from other consultants rather than just Byfields.

6.6 Kent Landcare District Service

NAME OF APPLICANT: Paul Leoni, NRM Community Support Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CEO
FILE REFERENCE: 11.03
AUTHOR: CEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

SUMMARY:

Paul Leoni, NRM Community Landcare Support Officer with the Shire of Kent, has written to invite the Shire of Kulin to join their group. It appears that the main reason for the need to expand the group is due to a loss of grant funding from Wheatbelt NRM which has obviously impacted on Kent's ability to maintain the service.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT

The following is an extract from the correspondence:

"The current NRM/Landcare service, run through the Shire of Kent (NRM Community Support Officer, currently myself), services 90% Nyabing & Pingrup Communities and 10% Lake Grace town area, has been in operation since May 2014 to July 2015 as a 0.6FTE position and from August 2015 to June 2016 as a 0.8FTE position. The salary component has been ~90% supplied through Wheatbelt NRM INC (based in Northam) and the Shire of Kent has funded all overhead costs.

Unfortunately Wheatbelt NRM Inc. have not indicated further salary funds post June 2016, **however** the State NRM Office announced the 'Community Capability Grants' late last year, for which an application was submitted (by myself) in January and a funding announcement should be made by April/May regarding this application.

I included in the application a possible expansion of the current NRM service to include as well as Kent, the Shire's of Lake Grace, Kulin and Kondinin.

Please find attached documents submitted, including:

- Application form.
- Map of proposed NRM District (4 Shire of Kent, Lake Grace, Kulin and Kondinin).
- Timeline for proposed workplan.
- Workplan Budget.

This funding grant gives opportunity to continue NRM Officer role from May/June 2016 through to December 2018 (~2.5years) in full time 1FTE roles. Considering the three Shires of Lake Grace, Kulin, and Kondinin don't currently have an NRM/Landcare Officer, it was recognised as an opportunity to expand the current NRM/Landcare Kent Shire role to these areas, utilising the current State NRM Capability Grant.

May I request you consider support for development of this role in the Shire of Kulin? A letter of support is required by the State NRM Office if a partnership is to be formed.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD 23 MARCH 2016

As per the application I have stated that some 'letters of commitment' are still pending and are to be provided soon. This will include a letter of support from each of the four Shire's proposed to commit to SHARING the overhead costs that come with funding the consultant/NRM Officer. Obviously some or all of the 3 other shires may not be interested in this partnership, for which I have also stated that if this scenario develops we will amend the application to only include those shire/s agreeing to a commitment.

The table below displays a 25% cost share, as one (of possible many) arrangements. Any feedback greatly appreciated.

	Working Days	Leave Days	Total Days	% Increment on Previous Rate.		Hourly Rate	Daily Rate (7.6hrs/dy)	Annual Rate (see total days)	4 Shires Contributions for Overhead at 25% / Shire.
									Annual Rate (25% Per Shire)
2015-2016	40.33	3.67	43.9999	n/a	Working Rate	\$31.9200	\$242.59	\$10,674.0237	-
					Overhead	\$35.5800	\$270.41	\$11,897.9250	\$2,974.48
					Total	\$67.5000	\$513.00	\$22,571.9487	-
2016-2017	240.00	20.00	260	3%	Working Rate	\$32.8776	\$249.87	\$64,966.1376	
					Overhead	\$36.6474	\$278.52	\$72,415.2624	\$18,103.82
					Total	\$69.5250	\$528.39	\$137,381.4000	
2017-2018	240.00	20.00	260	3%	Working Rate	\$33.86	\$257.37	\$66,915.1217	
					Overhead	\$37.75	\$286.88	\$74,587.7203	\$18,646.93
					Total	\$71.6108	\$544.24	\$141,502.8420	
2018-2019	120.08	10.92	130.99996	3%	Working Rate	\$34.8798	\$265.09	\$34,726.3639	
					Overhead	\$38.8792	\$295.48	\$38,708.1462	\$9,677.04
					Total	\$73.7591	\$560.57	\$73,434.5102	
	640.42	54.58	695.00						\$49,402.2635
	Working Days	Leave Days	Total Days						Total Contribution Per Shire.

The Shire of Kulin has participated in Landcare schemes in the past, in particular with Dumbleyung and more recently with Hyden for a section of landowners to the east of the Shire. I am not really aware of how successful these schemes have been as I have had little involvement in them however I am of the opinion that the Kulin District has tended to shy away from belonging to specified Landcare groups more recently.

The above information is provided for Council consideration and in my view if it was agreed to it really needs to be listed as a budget consideration without providing any firm commitment at this stage.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

N/A

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Should Council agree to consider this matter as a budget item we will need to provide in the region of \$50,000 over the next 3/4 years.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council decline to accept the offer from the Shire of Kent to participate in a regional Landcare Group with the Shires of Kent, Lake Grace and Kondinin.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

08/0316

Moved Cr Taylor Seconded Cr Duckworth that Council decline to accept the offer from the Shire of Kent to participate in a regional Landcare Group with the Shires of Kent, Lake Grace and Kondinin.

Carried 9/0

6.7 Application for Planning Consent – McIntosh Pty Ltd

NAME OF APPLICANT: CEO
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CEO
FILE REFERENCE: 18.04
AUTHOR: CEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

SUMMARY:

A planning application has been received from McIntosh & sons to construct a new Workshop at the rear of their premises at Lot 294 CBH Access Rd, Kulin.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT

A copy of the application and plans are attached to the agenda for information.

The proposed development consists of;

- 1) the demolition of an existing steel structure workshop building used for service and repairs to customers vehicles. The building has an area of 150m².
- 2) the new building will also be a steel structure and cladding. The building will be 24m x 54m x 9.5m and will be clad with zincalume to match existing buildings.
- 3) the business requires the extra workshop space to service larger agricultural vehicles.

As the proposed use of the new workshop is similar to the existing use there is no special conditions considered necessary to allow Council to approve the application.

It is recommended that Council approve the Planning application subject to the following:

1. The workshop shed shall be sited on the lot with setbacks conforming with the Town Planning Policies and the Residential Planning codes;
2. All storm water generated by the proposed development shall be managed and disposed of to the satisfaction of the Shire of Kulin;
3. The development shall not proceed until the appropriate building license application has been submitted to and approved by the Shire's Building Surveyor prior to any construction on the land.

Advice Notes

1. The development shall be substantially commenced within two (2) years from the date of this approval. If the development is not substantially commenced within this period the approval will lapse and be of no further effect. Where an approval has lapsed, no development shall be carried out without the further planning approval of the Shire of Kulin having first been sought and obtained.
2. The proposed development is required to comply in all respects with the National Construction Code of Australia. If required plans and specifications which reflect these requirements are required to be submitted with the building permit application.
3. The noise generated by any activities on-site, including machinery motors or vehicles, shall not exceed the levels as set out under the Environmental (Noise) Regulations 1997.
4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions of this planning approval constitutes an offence under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2005 and the Shire of Kulin Town Planning Scheme No.2 and may result in legal action being initiated by the local government.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Town Planning and Development act 1928 and Shire of Kulin Town Planning scheme No 2.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the Planning application submitted by McIntosh & Son for the construction of a new 24m x 54m x 9.4 m workshop for the purpose of servicing agricultural machinery subject to the following conditions:

- The workshop shed shall be sited on the lot with setbacks conforming with the Town Planning Policies and the Residential Planning codes;
- All storm water generated by the proposed development shall be managed and disposed of to the satisfaction of the Shire of Kulin;
- The development shall not proceed until the appropriate building license application has been submitted to and approved by the Shire's Building Surveyor prior to any construction on the land.

Note additional advice notes

- The development shall be substantially commenced within two (2) years from the date of this approval. If the development is not substantially commenced within this period the approval will lapse and be of no further effect. Where an approval has lapsed, no development shall be carried out without the further planning approval of the Shire of Kulin having first been sought and obtained.
- The proposed development is required to comply in all respects with the National Construction Code of Australia. If required plans and specifications which reflect these requirements are required to be submitted with the building permit application.
- The noise generated by any activities on-site, including machinery motors or vehicles, shall not exceed the levels as set out under the Environmental (Noise) Regulations 1997.
- Failure to comply with any of the conditions of this planning approval constitutes an offence under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2005 and the Shire of Kulin Town Planning Scheme No.2 and may result in legal action being initiated by the local government.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

08/0316

Moved Cr Robins Seconded Cr McInnes that Council approve the planning application submitted by McIntosh & Son for the construction of a new 24m x 54m x 9.4 m workshop for the purpose of servicing agricultural machinery subject to the following conditions:

- **The workshop shed shall be sited on the lot with setbacks conforming with the Town Planning Policies and the Residential Planning codes;**
- **All storm water generated by the proposed development shall be managed and disposed of to the satisfaction of the Shire of Kulin;**
- **The development shall not proceed until the appropriate building license application has been submitted to and approved by the Shire's Building Surveyor prior to any construction on the land.**

Carried 9/0

7 COMPLIANCE

7.1 Compliance Audit Return 2015

NAME OF APPLICANT: CEO
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CEO
FILE REFERENCE: 12.05
AUTHOR: CEO
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST: Nil

SUMMARY:

Council is required to adopt the annual compliance return by 31 March each year.

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

Attached to the agenda is a copy of the completed compliance return for Council adoption. There are no issues to raise other than the fact that we have not received the auditor's report by 31 December 2015 nor within 30 days of completion of the audit.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

N/A

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

N/A

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2015 Compliance Audit Return covering the 2015 financial year be adopted as presented.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

09/0316

Moved Cr Robins Seconded Cr McInnes that the 2015 Compliance Audit Return covering the 2015 financial year be adopted as presented.

Carried 9/0

8. ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

9. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING

9.1 Social Media Policy

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CRC Manager
FILE REFERENCE: 04.04
AUTHOR: CRC Manager
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

SUMMARY:

There are clear benefits for many councils in the use of social media, in particular, for engaging with hard to reach communities and fostering a more collaborative, transparent approach to community governance. Seven most common used for Local Government on Social Media;

1. Crime Prevention and Police Assistance
2. Emergency Alerts and Severe Weather Updates
3. Activities and Class Registrations
4. Council Meeting notices
5. Public Service Announcements
6. Construction Updates and Road Closures
7. Job Applications and Advertising Positions Vacant

BACKGROUND & COMMENT:

In a sense the Shire of Kulin is already on social media whether the council takes ownership of it or not. Social media sites Shire of Kulin is already associated with are;

Facebook

- Tin Horse Highway – Gen
- Kulin Bush Races – Laney Duckworth
- Kulin CRC – Kate, Mel, Taryn
- Kulin Markets – Erin Bailey, Kate & Mel
- Pathways to Wave Rock – Gen
- Camp Kulin - Tanya

Twitter

- Camp Kulin
- (Kulin Police have 1700 followers)
- #Kulin on Twitter

YouTube

- Pathways to wave rock
- Tin Horse Highway
- Camp Kulin
- Bush races

Our Centenary was tweeted about on Twitter, and it would have been great to retweet this sort of thing. Twitter is very popular and well utilised by government as it's a more official platform for news and information than Facebook.

I would recommend that the Shire of Kulin develop a policy which clearly outlines the instances when posting things on Social Media is appropriate and how to go about this in the right manner. I've provided an example from another Shire. The manner in which the post is written is probably the most important point for Local Government. Social Media is usually about posting one's viewpoint to their friends, Local Government posts are about informing the community of news, important information and not expressing an opinion about the news or information we are posting about. For example;

Due to weather conditions fire permits issued for today are cancelled, please contact your local fire controller for more information.

Rather than;

It's a bit hot today so nobody should be burning off.

I would also use Social Media to build a positive healthy image of the Shire, feel good stories, progress reports and photos on building upgrades, local projects and to get to know local Shire Staff and Councillor by profiling them. It's all about transparency – in business and local government.

Pros & Cons

- Councils are most likely to see value in social media use for events, promotion to youth and general community engagement.
- Councils have also found social media to be useful to manage controversial issues, address public misconceptions and build positive reputations, and effective for emergency management.
- Councils are being encouraged to consider the use of social media as part of their emergency management strategy.
- Social media use is not without its risks and can be resource intensive when developing strategies and establishing platforms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

STATUTORY AND PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Social Media Policy (Human Resources Policy)

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

According to research, active local governments on social media benefits the local community in the following ways;

- Receiving quicker responses from enquiries
- Having their opinion heard and taken into account
- Being more involved in council matters
- Forming a consensus of opinion which enhances the dialogue with their local governments and makes the government more open and accountable.

The public also perceived that the services delivered to them through social media platforms are flexible, reliable, stable and friendly, which enhances the citizen's perception of government service quality. The use of local government social media initiatives were also found to create social cohesion as it provided a greater sense of community.

WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS:

Responsibility of the CRC Manager to coordinate.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the social media policy as attached.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple majority required.

10/0316

Moved Cr Bowey Seconded Cr Duckworth that Council adopt the social media policy as attached.

Carried 9/0

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 1:00pm to be followed by the Annual Electors Meeting at 5:30pm.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:24pm.