

# Minutes of the Shire of Kulin Annual Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 21 December 2017 in the Council Chambers commencing at 11.33am

## 1. Attendance

President	Barry West
Councillors	Rodney Duckworth, Michael Lucchesi, Grant Robins, Brad Smoker, Haydn McInnes, Robbie Bowey, Lucia Varone
Staff	Noel Mason (CEO), Judd Hobson (Manager of Works), Cassi-Dee Vandenberg (DCEO), Nicole Thompson (ESO)
Electors	Jim Sullivan, Ros Howell, Faye Williams, Dot Cook, Clarrie and Pam King, Harold Proud
Apologies	Brad Taylor, Jock & Celia Carruthers, Jocelyn Bowey

## 2. Opening Comments & Announcements

The President welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 11:33am.

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes – Meeting 21 December 2016

Moved Faye Williams Seconded Harold Proud that the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 21 December 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

## 4. Annual Report for the Period Ending 30 June 2017

The annual report for the 2016/17 financial year was presented to the meeting for consideration.

Moved Haydn McInnes Seconded Robbie Bowey that the Annual Report, including the Auditors report, covering the financial year ending 30 June 2017 be received.

CARRIED

### Comments from Annual Report

- Jim Sullivan indicated that the Shire President should have signed off his President's report and the financial statements.
- Jim Sullivan asked if there had been community consultation for the two new local laws. CEO advised that there had been, but was actually in early 2016.

## 5. Questions Without Notice

### Jim Sullivan

Jim forwarded questions to the Deputy CEO prior to the meeting, which have been addressed.

- Profit from Fuel Facility – understood that any profit would be placed in a reserve fund to maintain and upgrade the facility as required. DCEO advised a reserve fund has been created but at this stage no funds have been placed in it, will be included as a budget review item and acted upon in June 2018.
- Borrowings – budget shows Shire has borrowed an extra \$1m to pay expenses and the net assets have reduced by \$1.5m, why, were and how was the money spent, and why the decrease in asset value? DCEO explained that:-
  - 1) In the budget this year we budgeted to borrow \$500,000 to help cover the costs of the construction of three new staff residences. At this point in time it is unlikely that this project will go ahead as Council are unsure of their position on housing policy and also are uncomfortable lifting borrowings a further \$500k.
  - 2) Our net current assets at 30 June 2017 were elevated due to an advance payment from the federal government for our financial assistance grants (FAGS). The advance payment was just shy of \$1m and means that we are without that revenue for this financial year. The drop of \$1.5m relates most significantly to the expenditure of the revenue received in advance. In addition to this we have also budgeted for the expenditure of some reserve funds (housing construction) and forecast that our employee provisions may increase.
- Cuts to Funding for CRC – will this impact our CRC operations? DCEO advised that in the past we have received around \$120k to run our CRC but this was cut this year to \$99k. We are also able to apply for an additional \$20k to help fund our trainee. At this point it seems as though our funding is secure and the cuts to the funding have had very little impact on the operation of Kulin's CRC.

### Faye Williams

- Faye queried why the pool is always late opening for the season. President advised this is an issue that needs improving, this year it was discovered that the pumps had deteriorated and the time it took to replace them delayed the start up process, hence the later opening time.
- Questioned if the change to the Royalties for Regions program have a big effect on us all? President said yes, infrastructure programs will no longer happen which means a big loss to our community.
- Asked if the Community Garden was R4R funding and if \$20,000 was spent in full. CEO advised funding came through a Community Water Grant and Works Manager explained costs so far and that a shed and fence was still to be put up.
- Congratulations to Shire for Seniors Christmas Party, was excellent this year. Commented that it would have been nice to have a Council representative attend.

### Harold Proud

- Congratulations to CEO on correcting a lot of compliance issues. Requested staff to load unconfirmed minutes on website regularly.
- Concerned that people are not complying with the Bushfire order to clean up their yards and would like to see this followed up. CEO indicated that Infringement Notices will be sent to non-conforming landowners.
- Commented that he read a NRM article about how the aborigines used strip burning to control fire and save country from being burnt out by wildfire – would like to see something like that done here.
- Indicated that he had made submissions to the Strategic Plan reviews encouraging strategies to support more employment and more businesses in the area. Shire need to do this as it will create a tendency to attract more businesses to Kulin.
- Solar Farm – hopes this goes ahead for the community. New generation co-ops as alternate business structures (as they have in America) could be a new business opportunity. Mr Proud will continue to look into this.

Cr Duckworth stated that due to State Government funding cuts, Council will need to be cautious with spending.

### Dot Cook

Happy to see ceiling replacement at Memorial Hall included in the budget.

### Jim Sullivan

- Expressed thanks for the erection of a 50km/hr sign on being placed on North end of Day St, he requested Council consider putting bitumen on this section of road.
- If Deputy President is correct, funding will be cut by current State Govt to country local governments over next few years; which may end up forcing amalgamations.

### Harold Proud

Extended a Vote of Thanks to Council for all they do for the community.

## **6. Meeting Closure**

There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 12.03 pm and invited all those present to stay for a light lunch.