



MINUTES

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

2021/2022



8 February 2023

Commencing at 6pm in the
Shire of Wyalkatchem Council Chambers
27 Flint Street, Wyalkatchem.

Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approved these Minutes for distribution they are in essence "Unconfirmed" until the following Ordinary Meeting of Council, where the minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Member.

Unconfirmed Minutes


These minutes were approved for distribution on 9 February 2023.



Peter Klein
Chief Executive Officer

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at the Annual Electors Meeting held 8 February 2024.

Signed: 

Cr Garner, Shire President and Presiding Member
Shire of Wyalkatchem

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wyalkatchem for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during this meeting. It is strongly advised that persons do not act on what is heard at this meeting and should only rely on written confirmation of Council's decisions, which will be provided within ten days of this meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors and staff are reminded of the requirements of section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, to disclose any interest or perceived interest in any matter to be discussed during a meeting, and also the requirement to disclose any item affecting impartiality.

Financial Interest:

Under section 5.60A of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a person is said to have a financial interest in a matter if it is reasonable to expect that the matter will, if dealt with by the Local Government in a particular way, result in a financial gain, loss, benefit or detriment for the person.

Proximity Interest:

Under section 5.60B of the *Local Government Act 1995*, a person is said to have a proximity interest in a matter if the matter concerns a proposed change to a planning scheme affecting land that adjoins the person's land; a proposed change to the zoning or use of land that adjoins the person's land; or a proposed development of land that adjoins the person's land.

Impartiality Interest:

To maintain transparency, it is important to disclose all interests, including impartiality interests which include interests arising from kinship, friendship and membership of associations. If it is possible that your vote on a matter may be perceived as impartial, you should disclose your interest.

Disclosing an Interest:

Disclosures must be made, in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the item at which the matter in which you have an interest is to be discussed.

If you disclose a Financial or Proximity Interest, you must leave the room while the matter is discussed and voted on. Only after a decision has been reached may you return to the meeting, at which time the Presiding Person will inform you of Council's decision on the matter.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson Cr Davies, Shire President, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:07pm.

2. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1. Attendance

Members:	Cr, Quentin Davies	President
	Cr. Owen Garner	Deputy President
	Cr. Stephen Gamble	
	Cr. Mischa Stratford	
	Cr. Emma Holdsworth	
	Cr. Christy Petchell	
	Cr. Christopher Loton	
Staff:	Peter Klein	Chief Executive Officer
	Claire Trenorden	Manager of Corporate services
	Terry Delane	Manager of Works
	Stephanie Elvidge	Governance Executive Officer
Members of the Public:	Nikki and Glen Hawser	Robert Waller
	Peter Lawrence	Dianne and Jim Greenhalgh
	Roslyn Mohammad	Sheryl Wemm
	Craig Cooper	Michelle and Brendan Eaton
	Pat and Kevin Jones	Will Nightingale
	Sue Adams	Bev Taylor
	Rod Hawser	David Holdsworth
	Lyn Stewart	Lesley Kemp
	Lorraine Lawrence	

2.2. Apologies

Cr Stephen Gamble (approved leave **Moved: Cr Garner** **Seconded: Cr Loton**)

Robert Holdsworth

Teresa Coulthard

Joan and Don Phillips

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1. Financial and Proximity Interest

Nil

3.2. Impartiality Interests

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

4.1. Confirmation of Minutes

4.1.1. Annual General Electors Meeting – 8 February 2022

Minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Annual General Electors Meeting held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 (Attachment 4.1.1)

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Loton

That the Minutes of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Annual General Electors Meeting held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Nil

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Cr Davies, tabled the President's report for the period ending 30 June 2022, as provided for in the Annual Report, pages 5 – 6 of the Annual Report.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Garner

Seconded: Cr Petchell

That the Presidents Report for the period ending 30 June 2022, be received.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Nil

5.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Klein, tabled the Chief Executive Officer's report for the period ending 30 June 2022, as provided for in the Annual Report, pages 7 – 12 of the Annual Report.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Petchell

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report for the period ending 30 June 2022, be received.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Nil

5.3. AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Klein tabled the Auditor's Report for the period ending 30 June 2022, as provided for in the back of the Annual Report.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Holdsworth

That the Shire of Wyalkatchem Auditor's Report, for the year ended 30 June 2022, as presented, be received.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Craig Cooper asked why the Bushell was not on the Major Assets List.

The CEO explained that all of our buildings are line items in our Assets Register and that all are inspected in order to plan maintenance and essential works.

5.4. 2021/2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Klein, tabled the 2021/2022 Annual Financial Statements for the period ending 30 June 2022, as provided for in the Annual Report, page 22.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Garner

Seconded: Cr Loton

That the Shire of Wyalkatchem Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022, as presented, be received.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Craig asked if the 'other' information mentioned in the Auditor's report had been provided. The CEO replied that yes it had, it was the financial report preamble.

Cr Garner left the meeting at 6:41pm

Cr Garner returned to the meeting at 6:42pm

5.5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Klein, tabled the 2021/2022 Annual Report, incorporating the Shire President's Report, Chief Executive Officer's Report, 2021/2022 Annual Financial Statements and the 2021/2022 Auditor's Report, as provided for in Attachment 5.5.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION / MEETING RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Stratford

Seconded: Cr Petchell

That the Shire of Wyalkatchem Annual Report for the year 2021/2022, incorporating the Shire President's Report, Chief Executive Officer's Report, 2021/2022 Annual Financial Statements and the 2021/2022 Auditor's Report, as presented, be accepted.

CARRIED

Business Arising Nil

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE

Nikki Hawser- Questions in black, Council's responses in blue.

1. The road/drainage works :

This drainage is not working and has become eroded on one side of the road and full of debris on both sides.

The erosion was actually silt build up washed down from upstream and is unavoidable with dirt drains. This was cleaned out a few days after silting up (under our normal maintenance regime).

The debris and leaf litter is unavoidable due to tree's in the upstream catchment area.

We will continue to monitor any erosion and build up of leaf litter.

NH: This has also become a mosquito problem.

There is significant water courses surrounding the property which will also contribute to potential mozzie breeding. The drain cannot be dug any deeper due to the sewer line and main fibre optic cable feeding town.

NH: I have owned the property since 2007. The drain flooded with the last heavy rain and took 5 days to empty – meanwhile the mosquitoes worsen.

LS (Lyn Stewart): commented that she had complained 5 years ago regarding the mosquito issues and asked why we couldn't do the fogging.

QD (Cr Davies): we will investigate this further and look into open water tanks in town.

NH: The drainage looks awful with all of the leaf litter in it. In heavier rains, the water runs up over the drainage tunnel and causes flooding in my front and back yards.

The leaf litter is due the gum trees.

We have lessened the overflow considerably since the culvert and drain was installed and there is less sheeting over the road compared to previous.

We will arrange for TD and PK to meet with you on site to assess and discuss the matter further. Our intent has always been to make things better.

NH: Also, when will the road be finished.

At this stage mid-March ETA.

NH: There is no safety indicators in the main street regarding the edge of the road and the drop to the drains – this is a high risk. When will this be resolved?

TD: We are currently working on the solutions – the hold up has been sourcing products to meet new Health and Safety Legislation and Australian Standards.

2. The car park across from the hotel.

This car park becomes flooded during heavier rains and becomes unusable.

Run-off is designed to be captured by the open drain running along the site's southern border, otherwise, we haven't noticed any flooding, just puddles. We will investigate this further.

3. The caveats on the NAB

NH: What are the caveats placed on this building, and what businesses are suitable under these conditions?

The property has been gifted to the Shire to provide a community service to the broader Wylie Community.

For 5 years (until July 2027) the Shire must not sell or lease the property to a third party without the prior written consent of NAB which, cannot be unreasonably withheld.

The property cannot be mortgaged without the conditional consent of NAB.

Council has begun discussions about potential uses for the building and community consultation will take place. If it doesn't work operationally, discussions may commence about selling/ gifting the building. In the meantime, it will be cared for.

4. Possible improvements to Pioneer Park

NH: Would it be possible to have more shaded areas and a drinking fountain to make this park more appealing to tourists and during the ANZAC services.

Yes, this is possible.

Council is currently seeking budget submission from the community. This was first advertised in November and the submission period is due to close in mid-February. You are welcome to submit a proposal for consideration by council. A well justified and costed proposal will improve the potential for the project to be delivered. The Council has limited funds and it's always a judgement call as to which projects are delivered and which are deferred for consideration during future budget processes.

Forms are available on the website and from the Shire office.

5. Query on upgrades as per Rite Build Groups inspection of Wyalkatchem Welfare Centres

NH: It states in the report that upgrades are required for the following buildings. Town Hall, Recreation Centre, Airport Terminal Building, and Shire Office. What upgrades are required and what is the timeline for these works.

Following Cyclone Seroja and the damage it did to public assets through the Mid-West and northern central Wheatbelt, we thought it appropriate to get our identified welfare centres inspected to determine if they will stand up to the winds delivered by Seroja.

Capital upgrades were identified to improve the resilience of all of our welfare centres.

We prioritised the Rec Centre as it has more amenities such as toilets & showers, an existing wifi service, a functioning kitchen and a substantial green space. The proposed upgrade was estimated to cost more than \$300k and has been put on the future project list to give the Council time to prepare & submit applications for grant funding.

CC (Craig Cooper asked if the CRC building could be considered as an evacuation centre.

OG (Cr Garner) explained that the CRC building had previously been assessed some years ago via LEMC and that it was not found suitable for mass entry and exit of services and people.

6. Strategic Community Plan: goals 3, 4, 5 and 8

NH: Goal 3 : A community for all ages- walkways, footpaths and shop access all need to be looked at. (See point 7)

We have \$75k in the budget for footpath upgrades and plan to construct a path from the pub to the Town Hall and any funds left over will be used for footpath maintenance.

NH asked if the Shire could help with access to shops etc.

The shire has been proactive in engaging with business owners regarding access – drawings and costings have been provided. Unfortunately, the Shire can not dictate to a private business but has a role in encouraging and facilitating improved access.

LS commented that she had writing the Shire some time ago requesting a gap in the new footpath be fixed as it has a heavy impact on the gopher.

QD requested Lyn to resend as this had not been received.

Cr Stratford left the meeting at 7:12pm

Cr Stratford returned to the meeting at 7:14pm

NH: Goal 4: Increase visitors to our region - this is a great goal, but we need to look at the signage around town. Many things are not clear to our visitors, including the location of the CRC, whether the hotel is open, as there is no external lighting to indicate this to visitors.

New entry signage has been developed and will be installed prior to the end of this financial year. It will point visitors to public services & amenities including the CRC.

Slides were shown of the signage—the public commented that they felt the Caravan park should be on the sign and possibly the Museum. PK explained that we couldn't advertise all the businesses in town and so had kept the signage to essentials only.

Cr Holdsworth left the meeting at 7:28pm

Cr Holdsworth returned to the meeting at 7:30pm

NH: Goal 5 - Growth in Business - we would all like to see business opportunities realised in the community, but it would seem that there is a lack of infrastructure such as shop fronts as some of our shops are being used as private residences.

Other than the NAB building there are no vacant pre-existing commercial premises on Railway Tce however, there are a number of vacant blocks.

If there is someone who wants to start a business we'd be happy to work with them to explore the options for their start up.

NH: Goal 8 - Accessibility and Connectivity - there is a distinct lack of connectivity in our town, which is evident when people tell us that they were unaware of an event happening as many people do not have the confidence to use or access to social media and are often unable to access the Wylie Weekly. Word of mouth is a wonderful thing, but many people are isolated for many reasons, and I feel that it is important that we get the news of events out to these people in a positive way, this may be by making the Wylie Weekly available in more places, such as the post office and CRC, and by letterbox drop's regarding other events.

Agreed – communicating with everyone is a challenge. We also agree that we need to do this better and we'll do this by coordinating the use of all our tools The Wylie Weekly, Facebook posts, letter drops and noticeboards. We have recruited a Community Development Officer and she will start on 27 February. She will be responsible for future communications and I fully expect to see improvement in this area.

CP (Cr Petchell) advised Nikki to write to the Wylie Weekly Committee and let them know where they would like copies stocked.

7. NH: Disability access - we were made aware recently about the difficulties in accessing some of the services in our Main Street. Although we are aware that these are private businesses, I wonder what the shire can do to ensure ease of access from the footpath to these services.

If these premises were being build today they would be built with the access of disabled people in mind. Unfortunately, our business premises were built nearly 100 years ago, at a time when this was not a required condition. Today, access to commercial premises is the responsibility of the business owners. The Shire can encourage & possibly facilitate but ultimately, it's the owner's obligation. We commend the CRC for conducting the wheelchair challenge and for highlighting the difficulty mobility impaired people have in accessing our main street businesses. We will continue to encourage business owners to improve access to their premises.

Cr Davies thanked Nikki for providing her questions in advance.

6.2. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

KJ (Kevin Jones) asked if we could invest in a street sweeper as the Roads towards the top of town don't seem to get done when the contractor is here.

QD agreed that this was worth further investigation.

RM (Roslyn Mohammed) pointed out that the Shire verge trees on Flint Street need attending to as does the leaf litter in the back-alley way. Would these be looked into?

QD advised Roslyn to let the Shire Office know in writing in order that it can be recorded for planning works.

SW (Sheryl Wemm) asked for a progress update on Ashelford Park.

There had been a long lead time for the blocks and these are on order pending delivery. PK is currently in discussions for a second quote on the install and the shade structure. The Park will be progressing by the 1 April party, but not fully finished.

SW asked when railings would be in place for the drains – this was discussed earlier.

SW asked what was happening with Lady Novar.

The property is being refurbished for leasing out. Works need to be completed by end June 2023.

SW commented on the fair and asked if next time there could be some areas of interest for adults. The last one was very child focused apart from the fireworks.

QD explained that there is a debrief after each major event and that this had been noted.

SW asked when repairs would take place re lights, oven etc and air-conditioning would be installed at the Town Hall.

QD advised Sheryl to notify the Shire in writing in order that they could plan works.

SW asked for progress on the Cemetery drainage.

The Shire has \$15,000 set aside in FY23 and a recent Friends of the Cemetery Meeting has identified the works. PK has shared this report with the Friends of the Cemetery.

DG (Dianne Greenhalgh) asked if there were going to be Christmas decorations this year. It was extremely disappointing that the Shire didn't make the effort last year.

QD apologised that that had happened and congratulated the community on their efforts with the lights competition. We will look into purchasing some upgraded decorations too.

JG (Jim Greenhalgh) asked why the Shire didn't have RV status and if a dump point could be put in town for passes through.

QD requested that Jim put forward a budget submission for the Council to explore further. We need to be mindful of the caravan park which does have a dump point that non stayers are able to use for a small fee.

RW (Robert Waller) asked what the Shire was going to do about the dust and noise generated from the CBH.

QD explained that there are ongoing discussions with CBH.

CC asked where the CRC directional signage was that he requested last meeting.

The signs are delivered and will be erected in the near future.

RW raised the crossroads as being non-compliant.

The Shire will investigate further.

KJ asked when the reticulation would be joined to the Museum water tanks as they are nearly full.

This will be explored.

SW asked if we had any laws about permanent vehicles being parked on verges + footpaths.

QD asked that Sheryl report her concern to the police.

Robert Waller thanked the Council for listening to their questions.

SW asked if untidy properties were followed up on.

Yes, we have a final notice in progress and the Ranger assists with infringements.

CC asked when the trees in the guttering would be removed.

This is in progress.

7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Cr Davies reminded everyone that they shouldn't wait until an Electors meeting to ask questions or express their concerns. All are welcome to come to the Shire; email or attend Council and other meetings.

Local government ordinary elections are held on the third Saturday in October every two years. The next state-wide ordinary elections are scheduled for Saturday 21 October 2023. Cr Davies encourages all to talk to each other and encourage nominations from those that would like to make a difference.

Cr Davies thanked the current and past Councillors that had given their time and dedication to the Town. Cr Davies reminded the public that Council do not make decisions to upset the community, they always have the best interests of the town in mind.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairperson Cr Davies thanked the members of the public, Councillors and Staff for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 8:12pm.