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with access to modern services and infrastructure,
in a unique part of the world*

MINUTES

of the
Annual Electors Meeting
held

THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2017

Shire of Cuballing
Council Chambers
Campbell Street, Cuballing

These minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 21st December 2017.

Signed.....
Cr Mark Conley, Shire President

Thursday 21st December 2017

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Contents

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING:	1
2.	ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE:	1
2.1.1	Attendance	1
2.1.2	Apologies	1
2.1.3	Leave of Absence	1
3.	ANNUAL REPORT	1
3.1.1	2016/17 Annual Report	1
4.	GENERAL BUSINESS:	2
4.1.1	Fence at Lot 28 Austral Street Cuballing	2
4.1.2	Memorial Park, Cuballing.....	2
4.1.3	Cuballing Entry Statements	2
4.1.4	Cycleways.....	3
4.1.5	Men's Shed Swap Meet.....	3
4.1.6	Sealing of Russell Street	3
4.1.7	Cuballing RV Parking Area	3
4.1.8	Untidy Residence	4
4.1.9	Waste Disposal Fees	4
4.1.10	Large Tree - Lot 28 Austral Street Cuballing	4
4.1.11	Requirement for a Deputy Chief Executive Officer.....	4
5.	CLOSURE OF MEETING:	5

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING:

The Shire President, Cr Conley, declared the meeting open at 6:30pm.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

2.1.1 Attendance

Cr Mark Conley	President
Cr Eliza Dowling	Deputy President
Cr Scott Ballantyne	
Cr Tim Haslam	
Cr Roger Newman	
Mr John Robertson	
Ms Carol Borgas	
Ms Carol McDougall	
Mr Henry Rozmianiec	
Mr Gordon McDougall	
Ms Yvonne McDougall	
Mr Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Tonya Williams	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Bruce Brennan	Works Supervisor

2.1.2 Apologies

Cr Tim Haslam
Ms Deb Hopper
Mr Barry Wood
Mr Cary Van Empel
Mr John Buise

2.1.3 Leave of Absence

Cr Dawson Bradford

3. ANNUAL REPORT

3.1.1 2016/17 Annual Report

DECISION:

That the Annual Report of the Shire of Cuballing for the year ended 30th June 2017 be received.

Moved: Cr Newman

Seconded: Cr Dowling

Carried

4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

4.1.1 Fence at Lot 28 Austral Street Cuballing

Mr John Robertson recounted his concerns raised at the 2016 Annual Electors Meeting of people accessing his property from the Cuballing Tavern across the Shire's property at Lot 28 Austral Street. Currently Mr Robertson, who borders the northern edge of Lot 28, has a fence on this boundary, but the Cuballing Tavern, who border the southern edge of Lot 28, did not.

Recently Mr Robertson erected a ringlock fence on this southern boundary to protect plants he had planted on Lot 28. Subsequently, following complaints about the appearance of this fence from the owner of the Cuballing Tavern, Mr Sherry the Shire Chief Executive Officer asked Mr Robertson to remove the fence. Mr Robertson has now removed the fence.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sherry, advised Mr Robertson that Council did not have statutory power to require the Cuballing Tavern to erect a fence, however in discussions with the owner of the Cuballing Tavern over this matter, the owner has indicated that he intends to erect a fence.

Cr Conley advised that the Shire would continue to assist seeking possible solutions.

4.1.2 Memorial Park, Cuballing

Mr John Robertson asked about the drainage issue at Memorial Park raised at the 2016 Annual Electors Meeting that results in water pooling at the rear of the war memorial and impacting negatively on the surrounding gardens. Mr Robertson believed that Memorial Park is an important site in Cuballing and had offered his support to construct a pergola in Memorial Park if Council provided the materials.

Cr Conley advised that Council had indeed allocated funds to complete the construction of the pergola and improvements to the gardens in Memorial Park in 2017/18 year. However after doing so, Council had reassessed the appearance of the entire central area of Cuballing that included Memorial Park. Council therefore intends to complete a plan to improve this whole area with a view to completing the plan in stages. Improving the parking area in across from the Cuballing Roadhouse to make it more attractive to visitors, installation of the heritage feature, the improvements in Memorial Park and a path linking the Cuballing Tavern and the Cuballing Roadhouse are areas are examples of areas that Council believes could be improved. Council believes that it is important to involve the community in this planning and intends to do so next year.

4.1.3 Cuballing Entry Statements

Ms Carol McDougal advised that the failure to finish the entry statements to Cuballing was very disappointing. The quality of the horse sculptures was excellent and the entry statement needs to be finished. Members of the community completed a design for the backdrop to the entry statement some years ago and this needs to be implemented. Ms McDougal believed that Council approved a design some years ago, but Council take on board the view of the Shire employee who completed the horse sculptures.

That the entry statements hadn't been finalised is a source of frustration for Council, but Cr Conley advised that Council remains committed to completing the entry statements. Council has a small working committee of 3 working on finalising the design.

Mr Henry Rozmianiec urged Council to make a decision and finalise the entry statements.

4.1.4 Cycleways

Ms Carol McDougall urged Council to complete more cycleway paths around Cuballing.

Ms McDougall also noted that Council needed to continue to maintain the existing paths. One path from Ridley Street to Colin Street had been blocked by a fallen tree without removal by the Shire. Ms McDougall believed that Shire staff should prioritise such maintenance over mowing of verges.

4.1.5 Men's Shed Swap Meet

Ms Carol McDougal noted that no Shire Councillors attended the recent Swap Meet held by the Cuballing Men's Shed. Ms McDougall believes it is important that Councillors attend such events.

Mr Sherry advised that the event did have strong support from Council. Shire staff assisted the Cuballing Mens Shed with the planning and advertising for their event and also arranged for the lawn mower racing that was part of the event.

4.1.6 Sealing of Russell Street

Mr Henry Rozmianiec advised that he had written to Council in 2008 seeking to have the section of Russell Street adjacent to his property sealed. Council replied at the time that Council did not have the resources to do so and would reconsider this matter in 2014/15. Mr Rozmianiec advised that dust was an issue from this section of Russell Street and this had increased with the commencement of the kerbside waste collection service. Mr Rozmianiec advised that 3 residences accessed this section of Russell Street and he was aware that other towns streets had been sealed in the past where only 1 resident accessed a street. Mr Rozmianiec believed that Council should now seal this section of Russell Street.

Cr Conley acknowledged the issue of dust from traffic on town streets and advised that Council was eager to extend the sealed town street network where resources were available. The selection of recent projects had been based on the amount of use of the road. This year Council has completed the sealing of a 500 meter section of Victoria Street in Popanyinning accessed by 14 residents.

Mr Sherry advised that completing the sealing of this section of Russell Street was not in Council's 10 year road program. Council would reconsider this program in March or April 2018.

4.1.7 Cuballing RV Parking Area

Mr Henry Rozmianiec, as a representative of the Cuballing Men's Shed, advised that the Cuballing Men's Shed were looking at a change of direction and were keen to be involved in a project for improving the town of Cuballing. The Men's Shed complete a number of minor projects, but are looking to extend this.

Mr Rozmianiec believed that an example of the type of projects that the Men's Shed were would like to be involved in included an upgrade to the parking area opposite the Cuballing

Roadhouse. This area was the site of the RV dump point and machinery display and was often used by as a camp site by RV travellers. Mr Rozmianiec believes this area is very important to the town and the area should be improved immediately with additional signage.

Cr Conley advised that this was the type of project Council were considering and urged the Men's Shed to be involved.

4.1.8 Untidy Residence

Mr John Robertson advised that the residence at 89 Alton Street was untidy and presented a disappointing aspect to the street. Some building rubble was bordering the footpath and vehicles are parked on the adjoining vacant land. Mr Robertson and Mr Rozmianiec agreed that the neighbouring property owners were trying to improve their street frontages and that the owner of 89 Alton Street should do so too.

4.1.9 Waste Disposal Fees

Mr John Robertson noted that Council was now charging to take tyres at the Shire of Cuballing Waste Transfer Sites and asked about the longer term possibility of charging for waste disposal.

Cr Conley advised that Council had no plans to introduce charging for access to the Shire of Cuballing Waste Transfer Sites. Mr Sherry advised that the tyre charges had been introduced to recover the cost to the Shire of Cuballing of disposing of tyres transferred to the Narrogin Waste Disposal Site.

4.1.10 Large Tree - Lot 28 Austral Street Cuballing

Mr John Robertson advised there was a large tree on Lot 28 Austral Street Cuballing that he believed posed a threat to his property. Mr Robertson believes that eucalypt trees should not be located near residential properties. Mr Robertson would like to have the tree removed and is happy to assist.

Cr Conley advised Mr Robertson to discuss this matter with Mr Bruce Brennan, Council's Manager Works & Services.

4.1.11 Requirement for a Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Ms Carol McDougall noted that Council had recently advertised for a Deputy Chief Executive Officer and that she believes that the Shire of Cuballing does not require this administration position and that the money for this position could be better spent. In particular Ms McDougall would like to see more expenditure on works and road services.

Cr Conley believes that the Shire of Cuballing's administration staff is more efficient and effective than other similar sized Councils. The three full time and two part time administration staff currently employed by the Shire of Cuballing is considerably less than surrounding Councils. To ensure that Council can maintain this efficiency and effectiveness Council must remunerate staff appropriately.

Cr Conley advised that the administrative compliance burden on local government continues to increase and Council was unable to escape it. Cr Conley acknowledged that in their shared time on Council, both he and Ms McDougall often lamented the requirement for this compliance and agreed that compliance took away resources from other, seemingly more beneficial, activities in the community. Cr Conley advised that in his opinion this requirement for compliance was not going to change.

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING:

There being no further business, the Shire President, Cr Conley, thanked the members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 7:40pm.