

**SHIRE OF CUBALLING  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2006  
IN THE SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**1. OPENING**

The Shire President, Cr Watts, declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

Councillor I L Watts, Shire President  
Councillor T H Wittwer, Deputy Shire President  
Councillors D S Bradford, J D Brown, C R Hawksley, R D Newman  
Mr P T Naylor, Shire Chief Executive Officer  
John Robertson, Carol McDougall, Stuart Graham, Heather Naylor

**APOLOGIES**

Cr C R McKenzie

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING**

**Moved Cr J Brown, seconded Cr D Bradford that the Minutes of the Shire of Cuballing Annual Electors Meeting held on 17 November 2005 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**CARRIED**

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 PRESIDENTS REPORT**

The Chief Executive Officer read the Shire Presidents Report to the meeting and questions and/or comments to the report were invited.

Mr Stuart Graham enquired as to the Dryandra Voluntary Regional Organisations of Councils (DVROC) and noted that the Town of Narrogin was not mentioned.

Cr Watts advised that the DVROC has only recently commenced and that the Councils involved believe it will be better to work through the processes of a regional council prior to inviting the Town of Narrogin to be involved.

**Moved Cr T Wittwer, seconded Mr S Graham that the Shire Presidents Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

**4.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT**

Mr P Naylor read the Chief Executive Officers Report to the meeting and invited questions and/or comments.

**Moved Cr D Bradford, seconded Cr R Newman that the Chief Executive Officers Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### 4.3 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Cr Watts offered the meeting time to peruse the Annual Financial Report and ask questions of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer pertaining to this document.

Mr John Robertson asked the following questions:

- What is the difference between current and non-current liabilities?
- What is the purpose or reasons behind taking out loans as opposed to paying from general revenue?
- Where about in the report is private works disclosed?
- On page 8 there is a sizeable discrepancy between budgeted and actual income for fees and charges?
- Enquired as to Councils plant replacement policy?

Peter Naylor responded as follows:

- Current liabilities are payments due at the close of the period or within the next twelve month period; non-current liabilities are longer term liabilities.
- Because of the lower interest rate Councils can obtain loans at through the WA Treasury Corporation it is often more advantageous to take out a loan than use funds from general revenue or reserve accounts. Also a loan will allow the debt to be paid by future residents rather than existing residents being burdened with the cost of developing major infrastructure and loss of provision of services if paid from general revenue.
- Private works is not disclosed separately, it is included in operating statement under Other Property and Services.
- This discrepancy largely relates to extra private works income received.
- Council has a ten-year plant replacement schedule. This allows for all plant items to be “rolled over” on a ten-year basis.

Mr Graham enquired as to the benefit obtained by Council in offering an early rate payment discount?

Peter Naylor advised that approximately 80% of rates payments were received at the closure of the discount period. This could generally be attributed to the discount offered and provides Council with cash flow and investment funds. Council tries to be equitable by providing additional three month period for people whom cannot afford to pay by the discount date prior to the by late payment penalty being introduced. Fortunately this is a minority at the moment but should it change Council may have to reconsider the discount.

Cr Watts provided the meeting with a general overview of the Western Australian Local Government Association “Systemic Sustainability Study”. The study looked into the viability of local governments in Western Australian and their financial sustainability without Federal Government Grants and their ability to replace existing infrastructure. It was indicated in the study that the Shire of Cuballing, along with about 80 other local governments, is unsustainable in this situation. However Council understands that federal grants are not at risk and believes that we can continue operate effectively and efficiently for the benefit of the district.

**Moved Cr J Brown, seconded Cr D Bradford that the Annual Financial Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### 4.4 AUDITORS REPORT

Mr P Naylor read the Audit Report to the meeting.

**Moved Mr J Robertson, seconded Cr T Wittwer that the Auditors Report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

**The following matters were raised by those present at the meeting for comment:**

- Mrs Carol McDougall enquired as whether Council has future plans to build a swimming pool in Cuballing.

Cr Watts advised not at this stage. Council made a contribution of \$300,000 to the Narrogin Leisure Centre for this purpose.

- Mr Robertson enquired as whether Council has given consideration to purchasing a community bus for Cuballing. The bus could be used to commute people into Narrogin or other areas for shopping and also private charter by local groups and organizations.

Peter Naylor advised that this had not been formally considered by Council but could be a worthwhile project and will be looked into.

- Mr Robertson enquired as to Council plans for future development within Cuballing and the Shire.

Cr Watts and Peter Naylor advised that works have been progressing in this area and Council is in the process of having its town planning consultant pursue the matter and prepare some preliminary drawing and amendments to the town planning scheme. A copy of draft plans recently prepared by the town planning consultant were circulated to the meeting. It was pointed out that the draft plans were in the process of being changed by the consultant to more adequately suit local needs.

- Mr Graham enquired as to the future of the Cooperative Bulk Handling facility at Yornaning.

Cr's Newman and Wittwer advised that it is difficult to know where the future of the facility lays. CBH have indicated that it could be upgraded, however it is an unknown quantity and could as easily be closed over the next couple of years. Council and the local growing group have been fighting to ensure its existence.

- Mr Graham enquired as to whether the Shire of Cuballing has received a recent request from the Town of Narrogin for a financial contribution to the Narrogin Leisure Centre.

Cr Watts advised that yes Council did receive a request. Amount being sought was \$51,600 but related to some other facilities and amenities as well as the Leisure Centre. An invitation was extended to the Town of Narrogin Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to meet with Council to discuss the matter. It was pointed out that Council has a level of commitment to local communities to provide new and improved infrastructure and a contribution to Narrogin wouldn't be made until these projects were completed. Also local

community members have expressed that Council funds should be spent locally and people that use facilities in Narrogin pay the extra fees and charges that have been levied.

- Mr Graham commented on the annual Shire of Cuballing Tennis Tournament, which was held last weekend (Friday 10 & Sunday 12 November 2006), and congratulated Council on the initiative and commitment to continue with the tournament.
- Mrs McDougall advised there are a few people in Cuballing whom restore vintage machinery and enquired if Council has considered developing a workshop area where the people could work together on projects.

Peter Naylor explained that Council has two projects. Firstly a “Mens Shed” where men can work together or individually on specific projects is to be developed in the shed at the rear of the Council Works Depot. As soon as quotations are received for power, water and renovations to be carried out a grant application will be prepared for financial assistance. This will most probably become a 2007/2008 budget item. Also a grant application has been submitted to LotteryWest for funding assistance to develop a Restored Vintage Machinery Display area on the Railway Reserve adjacent to the Cuballing Road House. Council has also made application to the Public Transport Authority to obtain access to the land via a lease arrangement. Obviously the project is subject to the grant application and receiving management of the land.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, Mr Graham moved a vote of thanks to the Council and staff for the manner in which the Shire is being managed and for the many projects being undertaken.

## **6. MEETING CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Shire President thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.