



A Fortunate Place

Shire of Wickepin

Minutes

Annual Elector's Meeting

Wickepin Community Centre

4 FEBRUARY 2021

**Minutes of an Annual Elector's Meeting held in the Shire of Wickepin Community Centre, Wickepin
Thursday 4 February 2021 commencing at 6:30pm**

1. Attendance

President	Cr J Russell
Councillor	Cr S Martin
Councillor	Cr F Allan
Councillor	Cr N Astbury
Councillor	Cr J Mearns
Chief Executive Officer	Mark Hook
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Erika Clement
Manager of Works	Gary Rasmussen
Mel Martin	Executive Support Officer
	Marion Hook
	Stephen Rose
	Linley Rose
	Ted Astbury
	Ross McDougall
	Kevin Coxon
	Ray Lewis
	Audrey Bird
	Hazel Green
	Phil Watson

Apologies

Councillor	Cr A Lansdell Kaylene Lansdell
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2. Opening

The President Cr Russell declared the meeting open at 6.31pm.

3. Confirmation of Minutes - Annual Electors Meeting 6 February 2020.

Moved Cr F Allan / Seconded Cr J Mearns

That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 6 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6.33pm Gary Rasmussen entered the meeting.

4. Annual Report 2019/2020

4.1 Acceptance of Annual Report 2019/2020

Moved K Coxon / Seconded Cr F Allan

That the 2019/2020 Shire of Wickepin Annual Report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6.36pm Phil Watson and Hazel Green entered the meeting.

4.2 Business Arising

5. General Business

5.1 Blue Tree

Ray Lewis raised concerns regarding the Blue Tree and its current location. Ray stated he had been in discussion with the new Hotel Manager and he also believes the tree should be relocated.

CEO advised Mr. Lewis that once a letter is received from the Hotel Manager he will take the matter to Council.

Linley Rose suggested a petition be put in place to seek community opinion.

Audrey Bird questioned if there are any other towns known that have the Blue Tree located in the Main Street.

Ray Lewis commented that he is not against the Blue Tree only its location.

5.2 Harvest Ban & Paddock Movement Ban

Audrey Bird believes the current Harvest Ban / Paddock movement ban is not descriptive enough and asked if more information can be added.

CEO advised that majority of the text messages are sent by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. The text messages do have a character limit and a cost factor, on average one message can cost between \$500 - \$600.

DCEO Erika Clement advised the character limit is 160 – including spaces etc.

Audrey Bird also requested that if there is a message regarding a fire within the region can the location of the fire be included in the text message. She also questioned who is responsible for alerting rate payers of a bush fire.

CEO advised it is the responsibility of the Shire and also DFES.

Stephen Rose suggested that if the message states there is a fire within the region the best option would be to contact your local Fire Control Officer.

Manager of Works, Gary Rasmussen stated that it can take time to clarify the exact location of the bush fire on the first instance, however in future will try to distribute the information as it comes to hand.

Cr Russel stated that if in doubt always consult your local FCO.

Cr N Astbury stated that he will bring up the issue at the next Bush Fire Control Officers meeting.

5.3 Harrismith Rubbish Tip

Ted Astbury expressed his concerns regarding the Harrismith Rubbish tip and believes it is being used by non-residents. He asked if a camera could be put in place.

Cr Russell advised that the Wickepin Refuse site is managed by closing the tip during the week. She stated that this has been working extremely well and could also be a possibility for Harrismith.

Stephen Rose did comment that he has been to the Wickepin Refuse Site on weekend and at times there has still been non-residence accessing the site. He asked if the Shire had cameras that could be put in place.

CEO advised that the Shire do have cameras in place throughout the Shire as a deterrent.

Cr Russell agreed with Stephen Rose, however stated that with the reduced hours the amount of refuse at the site had also reduced. Cr Russell stated the one way to eliminate non-residents accessing the site would be to employ someone.

Stephen Rose suggested the idea of introducing swipe cards.

CEO addressed both suggestions. He stated that there is no power at the site and there is no solar panel large enough to generate power to introduce swipe cards.

Linley Rose questioned the cost of the excavator compared to an employee.

Manager of Works Gary Rassmussen stated that there has been over a 50% reduction in the amount of refuse at the site and that the cost of the excavator was roughly \$3,000.00 an hour.

CEO advised that if the Shire were to employ someone they would also need to have toilet facilities etc at the site which in turn would be very costly.

Audrey Bird suggest purchasing another camera to place at the site.

Ted Astbury also stated that there are not enough recycle bins in place at the Harrismith Tip and requested some more be put in place. CEO stated he will purchase another 10 yellow recycle bins and place them at Harrismith.

Ross McDougall stated that there were also not enough bins in place at the Wickepin Refuse site. CEO advised that he and the Manger of Works will go out and inspect the site and purchase more bins if needed.

5.4 Theatre 180 – A Fortunate Life

Linley Rose would like to see a lot more promotion in relation to the A Fortunate Life production and stated that Local man Michael Heffernan is doing the music for the production.

Hazel Green questioned who will be organising the bookings for the event and it was stated that it will be addressed on Monday 8 February at the Albert Facey Homestead Committee Meeting.

5.5 Wogolin Road Recreation Area

Linley Rose asked for an update on the Wogolin Road Recreation Project.

CEO commented that the Shire has received 4 tenders and this will be addressed at the February Council Meeting. He also stated that the tenders was the completion of stage 1 only, stage 2A will be discussed at the next meeting.

5.6 Southern Wheat Belt Tourism Association

Linley Rose asked if the Southern Wheat Belt Tourism Association was still going ahead.

CEO advised that this will be addressed once the Shire appoints a new CDO.

5.7 WA Kaolin Mine

Ray Lewis asked what the future prospects are in relation to the Kaolin Mine

CEO advised that Andrew Sorensen – CEO of Kaolin Mine was invited to attend the Forum however due to the current COVID 19 restrictions he couldn't attend therefore cannot comment on the proposed future.

CEO advised that when COVID 19 restriction ease WA Kaolin will hold a Community Forum to discuss the Kaolin Mine.

Manager of Works Gary Rasmussen expressed concerns in relation to staff. He believes a number of Shire employees may leave their current positions and work at WA Kaolin leaving the Shire under staffed.

CEO advised the situation will be addressed if the need arises.

5.8 CBH

Ray Lewis suggested that the Shire look at putting up accommodation to house CBH staff over the harvest period. CEO advised Council is already in discussion with the CBH on this matter.

Ray Lewis also suggested that Council paint murals on the CBH silos.

CEO advised that it is not a Council decision and in the past CBH had said no.

5.9 2022 Tidy Town Competition

Ray Lewis suggest that the Shire of Wickepin should enter into the 2022 Tidy Town Competition.

Cr Russell agreed and would look into the process.

Linley Rose stated it was a mammoth process to undertake.

5.10 Cover for BP Petrol Station

Ray Lewis believes there needs to be a roof built over the BP petrol station.

Julie Russell advised that a roof would not be feasible. The roof would need to be extremely high therefore having little to no effect.

5.11 Wickepin Play Group – sun shade

Ray Lewis suggested there should be a sun shade built over the playground at the Wickepin Play Group building.

Cr Russell and CEO advised this could be done.

5.12 Summer and Winter Grading

Ted Astbury stated that the grading being undertaken at current was to a high standard however roads are being missed. He asked what process could be put in place to ensure no roads are missed going into the future.

Manager of Works Gary Rasmussen stated he does inspect the roads. However it is very time consuming and priority comes first.

Ted Astbury stated that the Harrismith North road needs attention ASAP and 1.5km of Line Road is still outstanding.

CEO advised he had inspected the road and believes it's not a high priority at the present time.

5.13 Yarling Brook Bridge

Ray Lewis questioned the progress of the Yarling Brook Bridge.

CEO advised that it will be a two year process and are waiting on funds from the State Government.

Ray Lewis asked if it could be bituminised?

CEO advised that it would not be worth it as there isn't enough traffic.

Ross McDougall asked if a sign could be put in place advising its only a single lane bridge and install a detour / temporary bypass.

CEO stated the matter will be looked at.

5.14 Harrismith – Truck Bays

Ted Astbury asked if the truck bays at Harrismith could be bituminised.

CEO advised the Manger of Works will look into it, but would be a high cost.

5.13 Bin Road

Ray Lewis asked if Bin Road will be bituminised.

CEO advised it will be asphalt and delt with this year.

Manager of Works advised the hold up with Bin Road was in relation to stabilisation. It was scheduled to be completed in the December but due to COVID 19 quarantine restriction there was a delay.

5.14 Cemetery Fence

Ray Lewis believes the fence around the cemetery needs to be replaced.

CEO advised the front fence had already been removed and will inspect the remaining fence but believes it is adequate at this stage.

5.15 Water Reserve

Ray Lewis requested a current update of the Water Reserve.

CEO advised the matter was dealt with at Council and it will take time for the CEO to prepare the report.

Ross McDougall expressed that he did not want it to be used for recreational purposes.

5.16 Wickepin Oval

Ray Lewis asked if the water supply to the Wickepin oval was sufficient.

Manager of Works advised that he has been carting water for the last two weeks.

5.17 Independent Living Units

Ray Lewis asked for an update in relation to the Independent Living Units and also expressed his concern in relation to a large tree on the boundary of the property.

CEO advised that the units were progressing – there was a short delay in relation to building permits but that has since been addressed. The CEO also advised he was addressing the tree and will remove any potentially hazardous vegetation.

Moved Audrey Bird / Seconded Ross McDougall

That a note of thanks be given to all Shire Employees and Council for their work and efforts over the past year.

Carried

6. Closure

There being no further business the Shire President Cr Julie Russell declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm.