



A Fortunate Place

Shire of Wickepin

Minutes

Annual Elector's Meeting

Wickepin Community Centre

6 FEBRUARY 2020

**Minutes of an Annual Elector's Meeting held in the Shire of Wickepin Community Centre, Wickepin
Thursday 6 February 2020 commencing at 6:30pm**

1. Attendance

President	Cr JA Russell
Councillor	Cr FA Allan
Councillor	Cr SJ Hyde
Councillor	Cr AG Lansdell
Councillor	Cr NS Astbury
Councillor	Cr WA Astbury
Chief Executive Officer	Mark Hook
Finance Manager	Erika Clement
Manager of Works	Gary Rasmussen
Mel Martin	Executive Support Officer
Guest Speaker	Constable Dorry Grzinic
	Sargent Phil Huggins
	Marion Hook
	Steve Rose
	Dave Astbury
	Ross McDougall
	Kevin Coxon
	Colin Hemley
	Clint Hemley
	Alison Hill
	Ray Lewis
	Audrey Bird

Apologies

Cr SJ Martin
Elaine Bushby
Keith Bushby
Linley Rose

2. Opening

The President Cr Russell declared the meeting open at 6.33pm.

3. Confirmation of Minutes - Annual Electors Meeting 7 February 2019.

Moved Dave Astbury / Seconded Colin Hemley

That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on 7 February 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

4. Annual Report 2018/2019

4.1 Acceptance of Annual Report 2018/2019

The President Cr Russell gave a brief outline of the 2018/2019 Annual Report. Cr Russell thanked the CEO, DCEO, CDO, ESO, Works Manager, outside staff and all other Shire of Wickepin staff for their work over the last year. Cr Russell advised that the Council does strive to achieve the best for all communities within the Shire of Wickepin. The Shire President Cr Julie Russell thanked her deputy Cr Wes Astbury and fellow councillors for the last year's work.

Moved Cr Wes Astbury / Seconded Steven Rose

That the 2018/2019 Shire of Wickepin Annual Report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6:40pm Audrey Bird 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 is all in favour of the Blue Tree and its significance however found the current location of the blue tree too confronting for residents who have lost a significant other to suicide / mental health. Ray believes the Community spirit needs to be lifted and the current location of the tree brings a sense of sadness and believes that it was a rushed decision when the positioning was decided.

CEO Mark Hook addressed Ray's concerns by reading a letter written by Elaine and Keith Bushby.

Cr Julie Russel also stated there has been another letter written to the Shire addressing the Blue Tree and its location.

6:45pm Sargent Phil Huggins and Constable Dorry Grzinic entered the meeting

Cr Wes Astbury addressed Ray and stated he understood his concerns, however – "It's a good conversation starter, therefore serving its purpose".

Colin Hemley believes the location of the tree is satisfactory. It is only a symbol to raise awareness within the Community. Ross McDougall agreed, as did Dave Astbury. Dave Astbury being opposed to relocating the tree.

Works Manager, Gary Rasmussen stated he understands both opinions regarding the location of the tree. However believes the purpose of the tree is being achieved – getting the Community talking about suicide/mental health and raising awareness.

Alison Hill suggested the Shire contact the Blue Tree association and seek their guidance in regards to location – also stating that Wickepin is spelt incorrectly on their Website.

Audrey Bird suggested that all parties come to a mutual agreement and called to move a motion that Council considers moving the Blue Tree outside of the town boundary but keep it on the Williams – Kondinin Road, the tree has a significance purpose however needs to be relocated.

Moved Audrey Bird / Seconded Ray Lewis

Council considers moving the Blue Tree outside of the town boundary but keep it on the Williams – Kondinin Road. The tree has significance purpose however needs to be relocated.

Status Quo 6/6**5.2 Caravan Park**

Dave Astbury raised concerns regarding the state and condition of the Wickepin Caravan Park. Dave believes that the park needs to look more inviting and the ground surrounding it keep tidy. He raised the question of possibly updating the BBQ area and replacing it with a decent size camp kitchen.

Cr Julie Russell advised that the matter can be considered in the 2020/2021 budget.

Ray Lewis believes that the Manager of the Caravan Park must live in the house provided by the Shire located on the Caravan Park grounds.

Cr Julie Russell advised the current Manager has his own residence and would be unfair for the Shire to request he leaves his dwelling to occupy the Caravan Park house.

Ross McDougall pointed out that a lot of small country town caravan park Managers do not live on the park grounds – it's just the way small country towns work.

5.3 Wickepin Rubbish Tip

Steve Rose raised concerns regarding the Wickepin Rubbish Tip. Suggesting that the tip be open on certain days and set times.

There has been a lot of non – rate payers / community residents that have been accessing the tip causing it to fill quickly and rubbish just being dumped.

Cr Julie Russell suggested the tip be closed 1 or 2 days per week and possibly overnight, stating that Wickepin tip is the only 24/7 tip in the district.

Steve Rose suggested we could have the tip manned and only open at certain times.

Cr Julie Russell acknowledged Steve Roses' suggestion but advised in doing this the Shire would need to employ another staff member.

Works Manager, Gary Rasmussen believed that if Wickepin were to man the tip then the Yealering and Harrismith tips would get an influx of rubbish beyond their capacity.

Audrey Bird suggested an automatic gate be installed. Ross McDougall agreed and suggested it could function similar to the Stand pipe cards issued by the Shire.

Cr Fran Allan suggested that surveillance cameras could be installed along with the electronic gate to discourage people from dumping their rubbish at the entrance.

CEO Mark Hook advised it could be put to Council for consideration, coinciding with the 2020/2021 financial budget.

5.4 Line Road / Stock Route Road

Dave Astbury questioned the progress of Line Road, querying if the whole of the road was going to be bituminised. Gary Rasmussen addressed the question, stating that if all of the road was to be bituminised it would increase the amount of traffic, therefore in the long term being more costly due to maintenance.

Dave Astbury also questioned the state of the Stock Route Road. Again Gary Rasmussen addressed the question stating this road will be addressed within 3 years of the 5 year road program. However there are roads in more urgent need of repair.

5.5 Youth Employment

Ray Lewis raised awareness regarding lack of employment opportunities for the youths in Wickepin.

CEO Mark Hook advised that the Shire could make contact with the employment agencies in Narrogin and pass on any relevant information. Also stating that in the past the Shire have offered traineeships opportunities to the youths of the Community

5.6 Drum Muster

Audrey Bird questioned the drum muster procedure and questioned if it was financially worth it.

Finance Manager, Erika Clement advised we get dollar for dollar, therefore the costing being neutral.

5.7 Water Supply to town dam

Ray Lewis questioned the town's water catchments.

CEO Mark Hook advised that all eroded catchment have been cleaned out and there are no current plans for any new catchments.

Cr Julie Russel advised that water is critical at this present time and the whole community needs rain.

5.8 Notice Board

Ray Lewis suggested the Shire place a notice board in front of the Administration building informing the Community of upcoming events.

Cr Julie Russel noted the idea and advised it will be discussed at the 2020/2021 budget meeting.

5.9 Christmas Lights

Ray Lewis suggested the town displays more Christmas lights during the festive season like the larger Shires.

Cr Julie Russel noted the idea and advised it will be discussed at the 2020/2021 budget meeting.

5.10 Support Local Businesses

Ray Lewis believes that the community needs to be more supportive of each other. Wickepin / Yealering / Harrismith using the example of the Australia Day Breakfast and lack of residents coming together from each town.

Cr Fran Allan and Kevin Coxon agreed with Ray's point however advised that the Australia Day Breakfast is held at a time when a lot of local residents are away on leave.

5.11 Channel Situated Near Railway Dam

Ross McDougall was looking for suggestions to get the Channel near the railway dam recognised.

Cr Julie Russell added that it is very difficult to access the track and would be very costly to make it suitable to be open to the public, however needs to be documented and suggested a book be published.

CEO Mark Hook advised he would speak with the Wickepin Heritage Group.

Works Manager, Gary Rasmussen commented that the Shire of Narrogin placed a plaque at their Railway Dam. Suggested the Shire of Wickepin could do something similar.

5.12 Aged Care Units

Ray Lewis asked the current progress of the Aged Care Units.

Cr Julie Russell advised that the tenders close on the 28 February 2020 and will be taken to the April Council Meeting.

5.13 Cemetery Fence

Colin Hemley made the suggestion that the fence at the cemetery needs to either be replaced or removed as it's in a poor state.

Cr Julie Russell said that it was a Historical fence and residents don't want it to be pulled down. Cr Julie Russell said that the concern had been taken to the Townscape Committee previously and it was decided to leave it as was.

CEO Mark Hook suggested that the fence be removed and not replaced.

5.14 CBH – Rail

Ray Lewis questioned if the rail lines could get up and running again.

CEO Mark Hook advised the both the State Government and CBH have taken the idea of going back to rail completely off the table.

5.13 Thank You

Clinton Hemley commended all Councillors and Shire staff for their efforts in 2018/2019.

Cr Julie Russell Thank all attendees and welcomed Constable Dorry Grzanic as guest speaker.

6. Closure

There being no further business the Shire President Cr Julie Russell declared the meeting closed at 7.25pm.