



# Minutes

Annual General Meeting of Electors  
Wednesday 7 February 2024

Date	Wednesday 7 February 2024
Time	5.30pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Friday 2 February 2024



## Notice of Meeting

Please be informed the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Electors will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at the Shire of Wickepin Council Chambers, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

The purpose of the meeting is to –

- Receive the 2022/23 Annual Report, and
- General Business.

Tim Clynch  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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# 1 Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member, Shire President J Russell, declared the meeting open at 5.40pm.

## 2 Attendance

### 2.1 Present

#### Councillors

J Russell	Presiding Member, Shire President
W Astbury	Deputy Shire President
J Mearns	Councillor

#### Employees

T Clynch	Acting Chief Executive Officer
E Clement	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

#### Electors

N Ballard	Elector
T Astbury	Elector
R Lewis	Elector
S Starr	Elector
R Starr	Elector
S Moxham	Elector
C Coate	Elector

#### Apologies

Cr F Allan	Councillor
Cr L Corker	Councillor
Cr P Thompson	Councillor
Cr T Miller	Councillor

## 3 Confirmation of Minutes

Attachment 1 – Minutes of AGM of Electors held 30 June 2023.

### Officer Recommendation

*That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held on 30 June 2023 are confirmed as a true and correct record*

**Resolution**    **AEM-070224-01**  
**Moved**        **Cr W Astbury**  
**Second**       **Cr J Mearns**

**That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Friday 30 June 2023, are confirmed as a true and correct record**

**Carried**

## 4 2022-2023 Annual Report

Attachment 2 – Annual Report 2022-23.

### Officer Recommendation

*That the Annual Report (including therein the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report) for the year ending 30 June 2023, as presented in Attachment 2, be received.*

**Resolution** AEM-070224-02  
**Moved** C Starr  
**Second** Cr W Astbury

***That the Annual Report (including therein the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report) for the year ending 30 June 2023, as presented in Attachment 2, be received.***

**Carried**

## 5 General Business

Electors in attendance at the Annual General Meeting of Electors were invited to raise matters of general business.

### Australia Day

Ray Lewis asked why the decision to not hold an Australia Day event was made.

President advised that it had become much more difficult to secure helpers to run the event. The Australia day event was also the day for the Community Awards which in recent years struggled to receive nominations. Council decided to hold a bi annual event and encourage more nominations for the Community Awards.

**Resolution** AEM-070224-03  
**Moved** R Lewis  
**Second** N Ballard

**That Council hold an annual Australia Day event.**

**Carried**

### Dogs

Caroline Coate advised that she had been bitten twice in recent weeks by local dogs. With no local ranger in town dogs have been a real problem roaming the streets of Wickepin. Suggested a dog behaviour program should be organised.

A/CEO advised that the Shire uses the ranger services of Narrogin Shire and they try and respond as quickly as possible. For a Shire of the size of Wickepin the affordability of a full time ranger is doubtful. However will request the ranger does more regular patrols of the Shire. CEO also advised

that a local government can't provide every service requested and that a service such as dog obedience/behaviour training is normally run by the private sector such as a professional dog trainer. If there was enough local interest in having these classes those people could approach a dog trainer. The involvement of the Shire could be providing a venue for the classes to be held.

### Roads

Neil Ballard questioned the state of the roads – in particular Toolibin Nth Road, Wickepin-Harrismith Road, Stock Road and Line Road.

CEO advised that he will request the Manager of Works will do an inspection and review the 5 year road program

### Bushfire Mitigation

Neil Ballard asked what fire mitigation is being done in the towns of Toolibin, Tiincurrin and Harrismith as there are many blocks that are a fire hazard and also what is being done along the railway lines?

A/CEO responded that any blocks that the responsibility to undertake mitigation of unallocated crown land (UCL) rests with DFES and contact will be made with that agency to see what plans are in place for UCL in the Shire of Wickepin. Also Council has recently endorsed a Bushfire Mitigation Plan which opens up access to funding to carry out bushfire mitigation in the Shire. 2024/2025 is the first year that the funds can be applied for. Fire mitigation within the railway reserve is the responsibility of Arc Infrastructure (lessee of the land) and the concerns about the level of fire risk on railway reserves is a Statewide issue that has been raised by many local governments. The Shire will raise these concerns with Arc Infrastructure to seek some work be done.

### Short Term Accommodation

Ray Lewis asked about the progress of any short term accommodation for Wickepin in conjunction with CBH ?

A/CEO advised CBH is proposing to submit an application for accommodation on its site in the near future.

### Residential Land

Ray Lewis asked in there was any plans to open up any more residential land in Wickepin?

A/CEO advised that the Council was currently working on a funding application seeking funding to develop approximately 10 residential lots on the land it owns on the south side of Whyte Road. An expression of interest was submitted last year and it received approval for there to be a formal funding application to be submitted. This application is expected to be submitted in April/May.

### Wickepin Hotel.

Ray Lewis asked in there was any potential for the Shire to access funding to improve the Wickepin Hotel?

A/CEO advised that this was a commercial venture and a private land holding therefore he believed the Shire would not be able to access grant funds for this.

### Aged Units.

Ray Lewis asked as to the progress of the aged units?

The President responded that the units should be finished by the end of February. Will then be waiting on Western Power to connect the power.

### CEO

Ray Lewis asked what the situation was with a new CEO?

President advised that the newly appointed CEO Kellie Bartley will be starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### Dishwasher at the Community Centre.

Ray Lewis asked if there was any plans to put in a dishwasher at the Community Centre.

President advised that Council had not been asked for this.

### Live Sheep Trade

Ray Lewis asked if Council would consider putting pressure on the Government regarding the Live Sheep trade similar to another local government group that had done so recently.

President advised that Council was apolitical so would be unable to support this.

### Child Care

Ray Lewis advised that he had been asked about the provision of child care in Wickepin and whether the Shire could seek to obtain a higher level of service.

A/CEO advised that there was plans in progress for a local person to provide child care at the Playgroup building 4 days a week.

### Display Shed at Toolseum

Tina Astbury requested why the decision to place the display shed for the Albert Facey cart and other machinery was to be placed at the Toolseum and that could it be placed closer to the main road (such as behind the fuel bowsers) so it could be more accessible to tourists?

DCEO advised that discussions had taken place between previous CDO, MWS, Albert Facey Committee and He Shed She Shed regarding the placement of the shed and this was considered the best place.

President advised there were limitations on what could be developed on the railway reserve leased to the Shire.

### Railway

Ray Lewis asked in there had been further developments on the re-opening of the Tier 3 railway lines?

President advised there was a feasibility study started last year by the Government into opening up the line between Narrogin and Kulin and that she had attended meetings regarding this late last year. The feasibility hasn't been completed but it appears there doesn't seem to be favourable outlook on opening this up anywhere in the near future.



Feasibility Study.

Skye Moxham asked if there was anything further being done with the agri business feasibility study that was done in 2020/2021, especially in regards to Goal 5 & 6 of the Strategic Community Plan.

President responded that community engagement was sought to create a group for future development. There was limited response to this. It was suggested by the consultant that Town Teams be utilised to encourage activities. Ignite Wicky was created from this.

The A/CEO read out the strategies under Goals 5 and 6 of the Strategic Community Plan which summarised the work undertaken by the Shire since 2018 in achieving these goals.

## **6 Closure**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed 7.28pm.