



A Fortunate Place

Shire of Wickepin

Minutes

Bush Fire Control Officer's Meeting

Council Chambers, Wickepin

28 JULY 2020

1. Attendance

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Roger Butler
Fire Control Officers	Tim Heffernan Keith Parnell Daniel White Gordon McDougall Trevor Leeson Nathan Astbury Steve Rose
Chief Executive Officer DFES	Mark J Hook Paul Dennison

Apologies

Manager of Works and Services	Gary Rasmussen
Officer in Charge Wickepin Police	Sergeant Phil Huggins
Acting Officer in Charge – Wickepin Police	Dorry Grzinmic
Fire Control Officer	Phil Russell

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**2.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 31 July 2019**

Moved T Heffernan / Seconded G McDougall

That the minutes of the Fire Control Officer's meeting held 31 July 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried 8/0

3. Business Arising From Minutes**4. Elections 2020/2021 Fire Season****4.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Roger Butler was nominated as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2020/2021 bush fire season:

Roger accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chief Executive Officer Mr Mark Hook declared Roger Butler appointed to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Wickepin for the 2020/2021 fire season.

4.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Trevor Leeson was nominated as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2020/2021 bush fire season:

Trevor accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chairman declared Trevor Leeson appointed to the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Wickepin for the 2020/2021 fire season.

4.3 Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators/Fire Weather Officers

Mr Keith Parnell tendered his resignation as FCO with the Shire of Wickepin.

Moved N Astbury / Seconded G McDougall

That the following persons be appointed as Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators and Fire Weather Instrument Officers of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2020/2021 bush fire season:

Tim Heffernan
Phil Russell
Daniel White
Steve Rose
Gordon McDougall
Wes Astbury
Jim Hamilton
Nathan Astbury
Trevor Leeson
Dave Stacey
Roger Butler
Luke Lansdell
Mark Hook

Carried 8/0

Mr Roger Butler thanked Mr Keith Parnell for his extensive years of service as a FCO with the Shire of Wickepin.

4.4 Clover Burning Permits

Moved T Heffernan / Seconded N Astbury

That the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2020/2021 fire season:

Steve Rose
Wes Astbury

Carried 8/0

4.5 Dual Fire Control Officers from Wickepin

Moved S Rose / Seconded D White

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2020/2021 fire season:

David Stacey	Shire of Corrigin
Trevor Leeson, Nathan Astbury & Phillip Russell	Shire of Narrogin
Steve Rose, Trevor Leeson & Roger Butler	Shire of Cuballing
Gordon McDougall & Wes Astbury	Shire of Dumbleyung
Nathan Astbury	Shire of Wagin
Roger Butler & Steve Rose	Shire of Pingelly
Wes Astbury & David Stacey	Shire of Kulin

Carried 8/0

4.6 Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires

Moved T Leeson / Seconded D White

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2020/2021 fire season from adjoining Shires:

Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Robert Kirk, Victor Lee, Andrew Marshall & Sam MacNamara
Shire of Wagin	Steve Angwin
Shire of Corrigin	Craig Jespersen & Greg Doyle
Shire of Cuballing	Mike Burges
Shire of Narrogin	Alistair McDougall & Tim Shepherd
Shire of Kulin	Clinton Mullan & David Lewis
Shire of Dumbleyung	Ken Wright

Carried 8/0

4.7 Fire Break Notice 2020/2021

Moved R Butler / Seconded G McDougall

That the following change be made to the 2020/21 Fire Break Notice:

Rural Land -

That the subdivision of each holding in to lots of no greater than 200 hectares be increased to 400 hectares.

Carried 8/0

Moved T Leeson / Seconded N Astbury

That the following change be made to the 2020/21 Fire Break Notice:

That a harvest and fire ban be imposed on Boxing Day.

Carried 8/0

Moved S Rose / Seconded

That the following change be made to the 2020/21 Fire Break Notice:

That the width of required firebreak increase from 2.5m to 3m.

Motion lapsed due to no seconder

Moved R Butler / Seconded G McDougall

That council adopt the following 2020/2021 Fire Break Notice:

Bush Fires Act 1954
Shire of Wickepin
Annual Firebreak Notice 2020/2021

Action is required by owners and/or occupiers of all land in the Shire of Wickepin. Please read this notice carefully. Any queries should be directed to the Shire of Wickepin Administration Centre or Local Shire Bush Fire Control Officer.

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, owners and occupiers of property within the Shire of Wickepin are hereby required on or before 1 October 2020 and thereafter to 14 April 2021 to plough, scarify or otherwise provide and maintain firebreaks clear of all inflammable material at least 2.5 metres wide as follows:

Rural Land

Inside the boundary of all land held by each owner or occupier, their firebreaks need not follow the perimeter of any paddock but will be acceptable following land contours in an endeavour to overcome water erosion;

- To subdivide each holding into lots of no greater than 400 hectares; and
- To surround the homestead, out buildings and fuel storages on any such land.

That from the 15th October all harvesting and baling (including cutting and raking) operations, there shall be an operational mobile engine powered firefighting unit with a minimum capacity of 400 litres of water located in or immediately adjacent to the paddock being harvested and/or baled. The responsibility to supply the firefighting unit is that of the landowner/occupier.

Townsite Land

All lots within the townsites of Harrismith, Tincurrin, Toolibin, Wickepin and Yealering are required to be cleared and maintained free of all debris or inflammable material. Failure to comply with these requirements renders the owner or occupier liable to a penalty not more than \$400.

Clearing of Fence Lines

When clearing for new fence lines, you must have written approval from the Shire of Wickepin prior to commencement of clearing works. Landholders are asked to consider locating the fence three (3) metres inside their boundary to avoid any clearing on road reserves. Old fences should first be removed. If landholders wish to place their fence on the boundary, they may clear no more than one (1) metre beyond their boundary. This may be varied in special circumstances at the discretion of the CEO and Manager Works & Services. Any timber removed from the road reserve is to be pushed onto the owner's property.

Fencing of Road Reserves

Council encourages farmers to fence off road reserves running through their properties to protect trees on these reserves and to allow new growth of vegetation.

Burning on Roadsides

Should property owners wish to carry out burning of the road reserve adjacent to their property, it is necessary to obtain council approval prior to any burning taking place.

Burning Periods

Restricted Burning – 1 October 2020 to 13 November 2020

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2020 to 7 February 2021

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2021 to 14 April 2021

Harvest and Fire Ban 2020/2021 Season

Harvesting is banned on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Lighting of fires is banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Carried 8/0

5. General Business**5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's Report**

Thanks to all FCO's throughout the previous 12 months. Your diligence and availability with radio calls has been noted and appreciated and we have been fortunate that this has been a relatively quiet fire season to date.

Noted Fires

- Near corner of Brown and Tincurrin North Rd (near Ballard's) reported by G Sims after harvest ban announced, burning along roadside unattended and adjoining a stand of bush, with no clear indicator of how fire started. The police were informed with other suspicious fires having been noted by them recently. G Sims was able to extinguish fire unassisted.
- Backyard fire in Wickepin townsite resulting in an alert from 000. Attended by Wickepin Town Brigade. Contained and no property damage reported.
- Wickepin volunteers attended several incidents in surrounding shires.
- Header fire in Seed Destructor after harvesting lupins (G Lang). Header and equipment had left the paddock when fire was observed. Owner extinguished fire unassisted with other units stood down. Communication as to what, where and units required was poorly communicated owing to people using mobile phones rather than UHF radios.
- Chaff heaps have not caused any issues this fire season.
- Stubble burns - a couple did get away but did not require much assistance. Perhaps less stubbles were burnt due to extended permitted burning season due to COVID-19 isolation precautions.
- Wickepin town resident (C Sims) was burning garden refuse without a burning permit in the restricted season. FCO Phil Russell has spoken to him regarding this matter. There was no damage and no further action. This may prompt a greater need for advertising dates of permitted burning and the requirements within town boundaries.
- Radio troubles reported by T Leeson (FCO) during our peak fire season. This problem took too long to rectify.
- Farewell and thank you to Colin Coxon for his many years' service to the community as an FCO and volunteer with the Yealering Brigade and truck. Goodluck with future endeavours.
- Thank you also to long term retiring FCO Keith Parnell for countless years of service to the Wickepin Shire.

5.2 General Discussion

CEO to organise a radio maintenance day.

Keith Parnell thanked Roger Butler for taking on role of CBFCO.

Standpipe Access -

Moved T Heffernan / Seconded D White

That Ken Martin be allocated a standpipe access key.

Carried 8/0

Water Tanker -

Moved T Heffernan / Seconded T Leeson

That council apply for a 12.2 water tanker under the DFES plant allocations grant.

Carried 8/0

DFES – Paul Dennison

- AED's have been sent out by DFES to be installed in all fire trucks. Training and maintenance to be the responsibility of local government, but expense for training etc can be recovered through the ESL levies.
- Fire vehicle stickers are now out of date and if you require one you must re-apply.
- DFES will be placing high emphasis on training and will possibly be undertaking a FCO course in October in Kondinin.

6. Closure

There being no further general business CBFCO Roger Butler declared the meeting closed at 8.32pm.