

SHIRE OF KATANNING

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting of the Shire of Katanning held on
Thursday 20 April 2017 in the Pioneer Room,
commencing at 7.30 pm.

*The meeting was proceeded by a presentation from Chris Egan, Architect of i2C regarding the
New Administration and Civic Building Design at 6:45pm.*

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7:30pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Presiding Member: Cr Liz Guidera - Shire President

Council Members: Cr Craig McKinley – Deputy Shire President
Cr Owen Boxall
Cr Richard Kowald
Cr Danny McGrath
Cr Alep Mydie
Cr Martin Van Koldenhoven
Cr Serena Sandwell

Council Officers: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Holden, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Uwe Striepe, Director Engineering & Development
Sam Davis, Executive Manager Projects & Community Building
Andrus Budrikis, Executive Manager Property & Assets
Libby French, Finance Manager
Taryn Human, Governance Executive Officer
Tessa Flugge, Customer Service / Administration Officer

Electors: Matt Collis
Sue Eastcott
Faye Trudgen
Peter Willis
Ainslie Evans

Jenny Hobley
Moh Aeson
Gareth Thomas
Ron Lockley
Bev Lockley
Dereck Stock
Teresa Flugge
Rosemary McFarland
Alan McFarland
Gerry Watson
Shirley Brokenshire
Peter Kerin
Ziagul Sultani
Paula Cole
Roy Cole
Julie Forrest
Andrea Salmond
Ashleigh Mills
Ashley Dornell
Julie Stock
Douglas Cherry
Irene Farrow
Alyce Caldwell
Gladys Wells

Leave of Absence: Cr John Goodheart

Apologies: Peter Rundle

Introduction – Cr Liz Guidera

The Annual report takes into account the activities of the Shire of Katanning – from July 2015 to June 2016 – which seems like a long time ago. Council has made it clear that this delayed time line is outside of our legislative responsibilities is not appropriate for the future.

You can see in my report that we have come a long way in a year – and I do make special mention of our CEO Julian Murphy and thank him for his leadership – whilst we still have much to do – we place priority in listening to community and assisting and responding where possible, with this strategy and of course a renewed focus on our obligations we can together continue to build our community.

We make note of the forthcoming community planning process, unfortunately that too is a little behind schedule but should be powering up over the coming months – I urge you to be involved in setting the direction for the future.

Whilst the Annual report highlights Shire Activities is it doesn't acknowledge the plethora of community activities, events and programs undertaken by volunteer groups and individuals in Katanning and the surrounding areas.

Many people in this room volunteer in some way – Thank you for your contribution big or small in enhancing our community.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting – 2 February 2016 (SEE ATTACHED MINUTES)

Teresa Flugge asked about the swimming pool issues that were raised last year and that Sam Davis would look into it, she advised that it hasn't been done and it was noted that it would be looked into.

Cr Liz Guidera replied by saying that Council have concerns with some of the areas of the pool. Sam Davis advised that the Shire has been clear with YMCA regarding the blankets and that a procedure has been put in place. He said that the YMCA have confirmed that the blankets have put on as much as they can.

Cr Guidera said that, that is the feedback we are getting from the community, that the blankets are being put down enough and that we upgrade the procedure for next year.

Teresa Flugge asked if the blankets could be fastened down.

Sam Davis confirmed that they are clipped to the pool, it's been on rare occasion that there has been wind at night and that they have been clipped during the night and does cause problems. The safety issue is to put them on during that time and we will need to look into this again.

Douglas Cherry advised that at the school swimming carnivals the temperature was 19 degrees, and thought that more effort would be put in during these occasions. He also said that the early morning swimmers would be able to assist with putting the blankets on and off.

Cr Guidera asked if there were any more issues that they get discussed in general business.

MOVED: AINSLEY EVANS

SECONDED: DEREK STOCK

OC1/17 That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2016 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Alan McFarland thanked Cr Guidera for her kind words at the beginning of her report and would like to acknowledge the people that worked with him. Alan McFarland noted the opportunity to acknowledge Heather McCarley for serving 12 years in Council.

Peter Kerin advised that the annual financial reports were very hard to understand and wanted clarity on a few items.

He mentioned that the employee costs were up 15% on one page, 33% in another page.

He was happy to see that the Auditors remuneration was down by \$13 000.00 and hoped that it's an ongoing thing.

Cr Guidera advised that she was happy it went down for the previous year but it has increased and this will be shown in next year's financial report.

Mr Kerin requested that as rate payers they see how the Saleyards are performing compared to other Saleyards. Would like to know if the Saleyards are profitable and what the figures are?

Cr Guidera advised that it is reported and run differently and requested Julian Murphy to expand on that.

Julian Murphy advised that there is a downward trend and that the numbers are a concern. The 3 year trend shows its lowering each year by a significant amount. It's coming to a point where we need to consider what we doing there. It's a costly piece of infrastructure to keep and own so it's something that we are concerned about. There is a bit of work that needs to be done about the sustainability of the place and also getting an understanding on how people are selling sheep. Not an easy one to solve but is definitely on the agenda.

Peter Kerin requested that a statement be sent out with the annual report showing the Saleyard's income, overheads etc. so that if there is an increase it is justified by the report.

Julian Murphy said that a statement included in the next annual report as these figures get reported to Council every month.

Mr Kerin noted that outstanding rates are up from previous years, have the rates been recovered since then? Are the ratios sustainable, they are moving from previous years, are they moving the correct way?

Cr Guidera responded that with the ratios there are some adverse results and need more information and Council needs to do more work on budget so it's trending the right way.

Mr Kerin said that in 2014 there were 74 employees, last year the number went down to 60 and now it's crept up again. Understands the Shire are trying to do a lot but would like to know why the number has increased?

Cr Guidera advised that Council are aware of that and there is always a balance with the provision of services they employ numbers.

Julian Murphy advised that there were a couple of adjustments with contractors vs employees and will be more adjustments in the future. There are a number of contracts that provide core services, some of those have become employees. Yes there were additional services that we introduced which were Occupational Health and Safety and Human Resources. These 2 positions were flagged as an issue in 2015 so that's the reason for those new jobs.

Mr Kerin said that in 2014/15 the executive wages, 2 employees on \$110 000.00-120 000.00, currently 5 employees on \$130 000 – \$140 000. Does that sit comfortably within our community? His understanding is that Shire Councilors don't have a say in salaries and that it's up to the CEO. He thinks that we have to be very careful that the wages are seen reasonable.

Cr Guidera agreed that Council don't have anything to do with the executive remuneration. We probably agree with you but don't have that ability with the Local Government Act to influence any of that. That's the duty of the CEO and what we will have to do is drive the overall budget and change or focus and put some measures to making sure those wages don't blow out.

Julian Murphy agreed that it is an area requiring review.

MOVED: DOUGLAS CHERRY

SECONDED: PETER KERIN

1. **That the Annual Financial Report for 2015/2016 be received**
2. **That the Shire President's Report be received.**
3. **That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.**

CARRIED

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Shire of Katanning Administration and Civic Building Design**

MOVED: ANDREA SALMOND

SECOND: STEVE BLYTH

OC/17 This meeting provides general support to the development and design of the new Shire of Katanning Administration and Civic Building.

CARRIED

Andrea Salmond spoke in favour of the new Shire Administration and Civic building project and design.

2. Other Matters

Andrea Salmond

With the potential and proposed lack of funding to the Royalties for Region, the Katanning community has stood very strongly behind the changes and upgrade of the All Ages Playground, Botanical Gardens and a number of other projects that are upcoming. What are known considerations or known changes that you can expect and what is best response the community can put forward to ensure support for the ongoing program?

Cr Liz Guidera

I had a call from the Minister last week saying that she's looking at reviewing our funding. I have requested a meeting with her and have written a letter to her as well, so we can explain this is about the future sustainability of our community. One of the challenges is that the project is named the SuperTown Heritage Project even though it is not SuperTown funding, it is Growing our South Initiative. The 15.7 million dollars includes the Welcome Precinct, it includes the upgrade to the All Ages Playground, Museum Tourist Centre, Piesse Lake, Residential Subdivision and others. It is critical for our future and we really need to be able to get that across to the Minister and that's what we will be endeavoring to do. What you can do as a community is support us. You could email the Minister your concerns of the importance of the future sustainability of our community. We have 5 million dollars' worth of additional funding that is leveraged against the project, including playground equipment and land development.

Steve Blyth

12 months ago the 15.7 million dollars was announced and given to the Shire, how much work has been done and committed so far?

Julian Murphy

To date we have approximately \$25 000 of the funding and mostly on staff wages and initial planning. In terms of when the go button was being pushed is this month so we have committed to a \$100 000.00 contract with Hames Sharley to do the Master Plan we also have some engineering quotations for the sewer. In terms of residential subdivision which was another project that would be relatively simple and complete will still be hamstrung by the planning commission who haven't approved our structure plan for Piesse Lake which has been problematic but acknowledge we did have some problems getting going in the initial stages we will have a backlog of previous projects which took up 6 months of our time. I acknowledge that we have left ourselves exposed for this reason, we are certainly in a position now that we are ready to go. I would hope that we would be able to negotiate with the Minister for us to continue on.

Andrea Salmond

Can you clarify if this money has been committed and you spending it, that it's been signed on a dotted line.

Julian Murphy

Yes it's been signed on a dotted line and have a legal agreement in place so we have a FAA in place. The money sits in cash deposit funds in Treasury and we draw on that across the 3 years. In terms of the timeframe and milestone of that commitment it is over 3 years and in that respect we are within those timeframes.

Andrew Salmond

Does this feel more like a threat than an actual concern?

Cr Liz Guidera

It is a real concern, we would be unwise to think that it can't be carried through. If we could get the Minister down to see what we trying to do and also a lot of the other good things that are happening in town. Also get her to understand the linkages of all the other projects. Until she talks to us and we can sit down with her, we will keep at it.

Julian Murphy

The agreement allows the State to withdraw the funds if they want to.

Steve Blyth

Would like to reiterate that is up to the community, I have put up a Facebook page. We are committed and want these projects done, we don't want a big hole in the ground. So it's up to us to help the Shire and jump up and down.

Julie Stock

When will the equipment be fixed at the All Ages Playground? It's not a good look for the town with all the people coming into town seeing all the broken equipment. We getting a few comments on it when we run the Miniature Railway Line.

Cr Liz Guidera

That is what the funding is all about. We have engaged the master planner, we will be pressing on. When we did the scope for the Master Plan there were 5 councilors that attended, we felt was the number one priority was the All Ages Playground equipment and the second priority was the residential development because it hinged on everything else. That's what we will be arguing most strongly for.

MOVED: DOUGLAS CHERRY**SECONDED: BEVERLY LOCKLEY****OC/17**

This meeting requests at the first opportunity that the 2 broken slides at the old playground be removed so it improves the aesthetic of the area.

CARRIED**Teresa Flugge**

Is there no way that they (broken equipment) can be fixed?

Alan McFarland

I was also told that they could be fixed but whenever I put pressure on people to get it fixed, no one was ever willing to do it. So although we had an expertise at the Saleyards workshop at the time, it had to be engineered specified and they wouldn't get anyone to sign off on it. I believe what we trying to do on the entry statement was to get enough funding to buy new equipment to replace it. Council requested on numerous occasions to remove the broken equipment and it's still there.

Cr Liz Guidera

The funding does allow for that.

Jenny Hobley

What sort of equipment are we going to get? We not going to get plastic stuff. Part of the playground was built for the use for older children and their parents. All I've seen for the last 21 years since I've been back in Katanning is all bits of equipment removed and nothing added.

Cr Liz Guidera

That's what we have been working towards is to upgrade that playground. Part of the strategy is for that similar industrial large All Ages, replace like with like. If we run this project the way we want to run it will be completed by February 2019. We will be making every endeavor to retain that money.

Bev Lockley

Perhaps we could have some photos of equipment put up and get people to choose.

Cr Liz Guidera

There is a lot of community consultation in the next 4 weeks in relation to this development. So we will be pressing on so people that want to provide input can.

Alan McFarland

With regards to the 15.7, it wasn't necessarily just the Shire doing most of this stuff it. Landcorp were handling the Piesse Lake residential development section and the industrial area past McIntosh toward the Saleyards. Water Corp were going to sort out the sewer line road towards Crosby Street. Is there been any

liaison with those agencies to kick start them. And certainly the sewer line which was earmarked back in the 1990's and we missed out then and its one area of the town that has not got a sewer line and that's why nobody can develop that area. It would be awful to lose it.

Julian Murphy

The industrial area is not included in the grant so there's no provision for that. The Piesse Lake subdivision, Landcorp wasn't prepared to take that on, so that has to be done by the Shire. There are some issues with the structure plans being passed but we are looking at the basic designs for that. We have had some preliminary discussion with the Water Corp that similarly they require a full plan and submission by a certified engineer before they will provide approvals. We have are seeking those quotations from engineers, we have some but not all.

Alan McFarland

Can we have an update on the Early Childhood Hub please?

Julian Murphy

There have been preliminary earth works done on the Early Childhood Hub and there's more earthworks planned for this week. We are doing the forward earthworks in preparations for the construction. There has been work started and ongoing work.

Cr Liz Guidera

On the board at the back (of the room) there are final plans, we haven't picked the colour of the metal, and that's going through the project group. The design looks really good, we have Caroline Robertson from Wheatbelt Business Network working on the strategy for tenanting it and that's one thing we have been working hard on. We have done a lot of planning because we want it be sustainable in the long term.

Julian Murphy

The Shire is looking at August 2017 for going out for Tender for construction.

Andrus Budrikis

The anticipated construction time is 10 – 12 months.

Steve Blyth

The removal of the stamp duty subsidy, is this really going to hit us? Can you explain?

Julian Murphy

There are 2 things. Stamp duty and vehicle registration. Vehicle registration will cost us \$48 000 a year extra and stamp duty depending on the fleet and what is purchased, so a similar amount up to \$100 000 per annum extra to what we pay now in State taxes.

Cr Liz Guidera

Effectively 2.5% of rates without everything else going up. Western Power is 7% increase. Just to give you a picture of what this means for us, this building here is \$80 000 worth of utilities a year. This is why we are making the new developments as sustainable as possible so we can manage that in the future.

Alyce Caldwell

The Shire did a good job of cleaning up our roads after the flooding but the maintenance of the unsealed roads are not up to scratch and as a person who drives across 4 different Shires on a regular basis there is a noticeable difference. For example Wolyaming Road we have the Wurgabup Rifle Anzac Day Shoot for Anzac Day with caravans and tourists is not safe. We cleaned it up ourselves to make sure people didn't get run off the road. The general maintenance of the unsealed roads is not up to par.

Cr Liz Guidera

At our first budget meeting last year, I was very surprised that we didn't have a 5 year roads program. We have had engineering working on that and council had a draft last week and it is comprehensive taking into account all the roads. It's not quite where we need it to be and one of the most important tasks going forward is to have a community meeting with the people using the road. It's not going to happen before seeding but we are committed to improving our road infrastructure and maintenance.

Peter Kerin

I'm going to part a bit from the usual, I might hand out a couple of bouquets, but before just on that playground thing, I was one of the ones who was involved in the building for good or worse and I actually made a trip to South Australia to look at one at Monash, in the upper regions of the Murray River and I've begin to understand that has had to close now because of the insurance things with things breaking down and so on, so I wish you well.

I'm not usually handing out bouquets but I think it's important that we recognise that there has been a significant change in attitude within the Shire over the past couple of years that should be noted, where it has come from I presume that's the Result of the CEO and our Shire President.

Three little things that I notice as a rate payer:

One is that glass wall we have in the office. It was impenetrable. You could not get past it unless you had a yellow note, you couldn't even do anything, I've only occasionally wanted to speak with a couple of officers and I've had to work my way around it but you go through, it is much easier to be able to put your issue

to someone face to face rather than writing out a note and not knowing if the notes gotten through – congratulations on at least doing that.

The attitude of the general workers has significantly changed in my view. I don't go around talking to them and stopping them but I have had occasion in the last couple of weeks to the people that been working on the roads, when you pull up you stop and have a chat with them, they are happy generally and I think it comes from the top, they are a different bunch of guys, a couple of years ago if you pulled up and chatted to them, all they wanted to do was tear strips off someone, so congratulations.

And I probably differ a little bit from Alyce there, I was going to congratulate the Shire, I still congratulate the Shire on the way they got the roads up and going, I spoke to Uwe Striepe about that and Julian Murphy and a couple of councillors, it was fantastic the way they got out and got the roads passable again. Admittedly most farmers, ourselves included, got out and carted a couple of loads of gravel to really bad spots and got the loader and cleared a few trees and all that sort of thing, and that's par of the course but the Shire were in there for a couple of days got a grader through and got it passable. Now I know there is a lot of work still to be done and it's not something that can be done overnight because of the damage that was done out on the East Side there but I think the Shire has done a fantastic job in getting these roads passable now and they are working. I know there is a contractor working just next to our place now getting these roads done, trying to restore them to something like they were. So well done don't hear it very often from me but well done.

Cr Liz Guidera

Thank you Peter we appreciate it.

Shirley Brokenshire

Thank you to the current Shire President, Liz Guidera and CEO Julian Murphy for positively turning around the tone of our town. Although we know there is still plenty to be done, you have gone out of your way to meet with and listen to the community and that the Shire has become a pleasant place to work. I've spoken to a couple of staff at the office and they say they love coming to work and it wasn't like that a couple of years ago. Liz and Julian you are approachable and happy to chat and listen to any man on the street. Thank you. We know all requests cannot be granted but you are prepared to listen and not put us down. I have a couple of requests. The most important section of Daping Street from Bokerup Street intersection to Clive Street has a good foot path from both sides, but from that intersection down to the industrial section there are no footpath. I'm not asking for a new footpath but I'm requesting the stumps of 2 trees in front of number 42 Daping Street and 46 Daping Street be removed please. These 2 trees were cut down over 12 months ago and cause a danger from exposed roots etc to school children and dogs to this side of the road.

Please could we have the monthly Shire newsletter, letter box dropped again? Many seniors do not have or will ever have a computer and many of those that

have one do not access Facebook and are also not incline to remember to go to the Shire to pick up a newsletter. We feel that we are being left in the dark, a good example of this was the alarm was created when the Blessing of the Roads parade was held on the 6 April. Many did not know that this was happening and not only that many of us didn't know that this was an open invitation to meet the volunteers at the ceremony held at the Rec Centre. I know a lot people were fearful because they thought all sorts of things were happening. When the Shire newsletter is obtained from the Shire office or printed off the computer, please can it be typed big enough for us to read as some of the sections are too small, we need a magnify glass to read it.

Can there be signage informing large transport trucks not to use Clive Street CBD. Yesterday a large truck went through hitting all the central street trees with 2 sea containers on it. Also a semi trailer came along Daping Street along Clive Street recently, he could not turn either left or right therefore had to back down Daping Street alarming road users before being able to turn up Barker Street and get out of town that way. New guys come to town there's nothing to say you can't turn from Daping Street either left or right into Clive Street. Thank you for your attention.

Cr Liz Guidera

Thank you Shirley. I think we've had quite a few people talk about Shire Matters Newsletter and probably we should put our heads together and see what we can do to solve the issue. It costs \$4,500.00 to print/mail it. We are not going to make any commitment to print everybody's because there are a lot of people can access via email better we chat to seniors to resolve the issue for them.

Shirely Brokenshire

I had requested that 25 be printed off at the office and I gave them out to the seniors. I'm happy to, if I get 50 printed off to give it to the seniors that I know who really would appreciate it.

Cr Liz Guidera

Julian has just said we can probably print those on A3 rather than A4 with a bigger font.

(In response to the question about signage)When we were talking about the scope for the Heritage Centre which is the welcome precinct and the Piesse Lake, one of the things that the councilors brought up when we were looking at the planning is linking those two sections of our town, so we are not looking at those two things in isolation. Austral Terrace, RV parking within the town site is key to that, signage is a big thing. I do get a lot of people talking about signage, I still have a photo that someone sent me 18 months ago of a harvester driving along the main street.

Jenny Hobley

I would like to thank the gardeners because the ovals and gardens are looking really good, probably the best they have ever looked. They have done a really really good job.

Julie Stock

I called into Ewylmartup Lake last month on my way back from CWA and I was so impressed about how it looked, it looks so great. There are ducks on the lake there and everything looks so green and nice. I think it's a really good thing for the area, and the Shire. I have been sending visitors there from the Visitors Centre. I think it's a real credit all to the Shire and the local people who put work there and I would just like to say thank you for that.

Cr Liz Guidera

It was a great project and when I was out there the other day there was a couple having a picnic and come out there all the time. The water is much better than it was in January.

MOVED: RON LOCKLEY**SECONDED: ALYCE CALDWELL****OC/17****This meeting supports the Shire of Katanning to make every endeavour to retain Royalties for Regions, Growing Our South initiative funding.****CARRIED****Cr Liz Guidera**

We will certainly do our best.

Bev Lockley

We could ask our Minister to suggest a new businesses we could have in town to support our endeavors to grow the town.

Cr Liz Guidera

Yes we certainly have agriculture, the Ag Department. That's also one of the subjects we want to talk to the Minister because that is also her portfolio. I would like to say that yes we have had 2 businesses close in town. 1 is replaced with a similar business. Retail has changed, environment has changed, so we shouldn't get too down about it. In fact Alan McFarland posted on Facebook about the good things happening in our community. I know of 3 agricultural service businesses that are expanding and I've had other people in a similar industry telling me their businesses are expanding, so there are some really good things happening. Retail shops are not the only indicator of health of the community. On that note we had a fantastic tour through the Premier Mill last week and Nigel Oakey with a presentation to the council. Most people would know he has bought the 3 shops, the Old Mill Deli and the other 2 empty shop and butchers and is renovating those as well as the 22 accommodation units, the café and the wine bar. So that's a really good exciting development for our community and we will be working with our regional neighbours on tourist opportunities and

we have invited them to come and tour the Mill and discuss opportunities for the whole of the Great Southern.

Alan McFarland

Could you mention to the Minister if she wants jobs the Dome probably is the perfect example where the SuperTowns did work, there are going to be a lot of jobs there.

Cr Liz Guidera

I did make that point the SuperTowns was a 30 or 40 year project to increase population so gauging that after only 4 years is a little bit premature, especially as 30 jobs from the Dome haven't come online yet. There are jobs coming and there certainly expansion in other areas.

Teresa Flugge

Would the expansion of the Hospital not create more jobs?

Cr Liz Guidera

It will increase services and visiting specialists. The last time I met with the hospital they were looking at an October opening (Confirmed by Gladys Wells and Hilary Harris). Communities are changing everywhere and with that changes in medical services, and we do need to fight to retain services. The more knowledge we have as a Council on what the medical needs are for the community the better off we are to advocate on your behalf for state government.

Thank you very much for your attendance we do appreciate it, we know that you care about our community as much as we do.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.