



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

SHIRE OF KATANNING

**ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting of the Shire of Katanning held on
Thursday 6 February 2020 in the Pioneer Room,
commencing at 7.30pm.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.31 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Presiding Member: Cr Liz Guidera - Shire President

Council Members: Cr John Goodheart - Deputy Shire President
Cr Owen Boxall
Cr Danny McGrath
Cr Martin Van Koldenhoven
Cr Serena Sandwell
Cr Kristy D'Aprile
Cr Ernie Menghini
Cr Mark Stephens

Council Officers: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Lisa Hannagan, Executive Manager Corporate and Community
Heidi Cowcher, Executive Manager Infrastructure and Assets
Sue Eastcott, Executive Assistant to CEO

Electors: Matt Collis
Doug Cherry
Lloyd Young
Tania Wolfe
Alan McFarland

Melvin Hettner
Maria Obillo
Kieran Stephens

Leave of Absence:

Apologies:

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

President Liz Guidera welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land in which we met and paid respects to their Elders past and emerging.

Cr Guidera called for a motion on the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting 2019.

3.1 Annual Electors Meeting – 11 February 2019 (SEE ATTACHED MINUTES)

MOVED: CR MARTIN VAN KOLDENHOVEN SECONDED: CR JOHN GOODHEART

OC1/20 That the minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Monday 11 February 2019 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Voting Requirement: Simple Majority

CARRIED

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Cr Liz Guidera called for questions from the electors.

Lloyd Young question

Mr Young queried if the Financial Report could be given out earlier than on the night.

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy explained that the Financial Report has been available on the Shire Webpage for the last month.

Cr Liz Guidera response

Cr Guidera stated that once the notice of the meeting is put out the reports are put up on the website and if you want a hard copy you can ring the Shire and get a hard copy for free. It is under the local Government Act that the Shire must put it on three communication sites

Lloyd Young response

Mr Young states he wasn't aware of any of that and as they don't get the current news. He stated that this is one of the problems with Katanning that everyone knows this stuff but doesn't tell anyone and the only reason he knew is that Cr van Koldenhoven told him

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy explained that there is newspaper advertisement, website, notice boards all of the normal places the Shire may advertise. The onus is on the public to read the newspaper and stay abreast of the news the Shire have done what they can, Mr Murphy noted that it was also adopted at the Council Meeting in December so it has been in the public domain since December.

Cr Liz Guidera response

Cr Guidera explained that it is under the local Government Act that the Shire must put it on three communication sites the Shire uses the newspaper advertisement, website, notice boards. Cr Guidera commented that next year Mr Young will be able to go on the website or see it on a notice on the notice board and that it is usually about this time also that Mr Young ring the Shire request a hard copy of the documents which will be provided at the front office.

Cr Liz Guidera called for a motion to be moved.

MOVED: MATT COLLIS

SECONDED: CR JOHN GOODHEART

1. **That the Annual Financial Report for 2018/2019 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

Cr Liz Guidera called for questions from the electors.

Marvin Hettner statement

Mr Hettner stated that when the meeting on livestock theft was held at the Saleyards during the year that would have included theft of beef livestock and that it was held on a day when they were attending markets for their beef and unable to attend.

Cr Guidera Response.

Cr Guidera explained that Scott Thompson the ex-president of Broomhill organized the meeting and invited the Shire of Katanning, and that the Shire had no involvement in organizing the meeting, the time or the date. Cr Guidera commented that it was a very good meeting and was well attended.

Marvin Hettner

Mr Hettner stated that he just wanted to make the point that he had tried to contact Scott Thompson regarding the meeting, and he didn't seem to be able to get anywhere. He also

commented that it should not be forgotten that a beef producer that farms in the district had the largest livestock theft back in 2012 and probably in Australia. Mr Hettner further commented that beef farmers need to be included as beef producers are part of the live trade, at least 50% of all live trade on boats are beef with most of his cattle going to that trade.

Cr Guidera Response.

Cr Guidera reiterated that Scott Thompson organized the meeting and said that if the Shire of Katanning organized one that it would be ensured that the Shire would consult with the beef producers.

Lloyd Young Question

Mr Young addressed the issue of fire mitigation around the Shire and stated that he felt that the Shire was very slack on their own behalf, that Shire land and bush are full of long grass. Mr Young commented that the Shire can come around and give infringement notices and warnings to small landholders when the Shire is not the one setting an example, he said he would like to see the Shire adopt fire mitigation better than having a mower go through the bush and some fire breaks.

Mr Young stated that he would like to see the Council develop a policy of burning off and that he would like to see town blocks burnt off at a reasonable time when the grass is dry, after 6 pm. He shared that the Dumbleyung Shire used to have the fire brigade come around and burn off these blocks for you for a cash donation to their Christmas fund. Mr Young stated that at the back of his place there was long grass it was mowed down to 2 inches but is now like a haystack and is still a fire hazard. Mr Young explained that he complied to the rules, but it is no safer than what it was so if the Shire had fire mitigation in place before the fire starts rather than after.

Cr Guidera response

Cr Guidera thanked Mr Young for his question and commented that although she had spoken to him last night that she had not had the opportunity to discuss with Cindy Pearce (CESM) as there had been a major fire in the district that day which had tied up Shire and Community resources and that the Shire would have to look into the detail of whether you were aloud to burn blocks in the townsite.

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy stated that each year the Shire issued the fire break notices that follow the rules and regulations of the Bush Fires Act and if people don't comply with that the Shire will go in and slash the blocks as best we can and that there are a number of legal notices that are issued before the Shire can enter private property.

Mr Murphy explained that the Shire does have a policy and a series of processes which is agreed with the local Bush Fire Brigades and Fire Control Officers and managed through the Community Emergency Services Manager.

Mr Murphy explained that the Shire does get some funding from State Government to carry out fire mitigation on crown land and bush blocks but it is limited so the Shire works on getting strategic fire breaks in so the town is protected and that there are barriers between the large bush blocks and the houses on the fringes of town, he expressed that it might not be perfect but it is coordinated and where there is room for improvement the Shire can work towards that.

Lloyd Young response

Mr Young responded that he would like to see a lot of improvement and he noted that embers from a fire can travel up to 30 km.

Alan McFarland question

Mr McFarland congratulated the Shire on the promotion that has been done with the Timeless Stories series, he stated that he thought it was a great little initiative. Mr Mcfarland asked how it was going to be promoted, where is it going to go, how can we get the exposure and what is going to happen next.

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy explained that the Shire had started posting the stories on social media and that tomorrow was going to be the last one as the 7th went up today. Mr Murphy commented that the stories had been shared and commented on to some extent , particularly locally and that he had given a USB with all 8 stories to the Albany Advertiser journalists today and that they want to use it as a basis for print articles as well as their on line site. Now that they have been released on the Shire face book page and most local people follow the stories now the Shire will look at how it can bump them and push them out through social media. Mr Murphy shared that they had been entered into an online media award by Flare, Dixie Marshall's company to do with the production and that if there is a win or a short listing there hopefully there will be more promotion opportunities. Mr Murphy mentioned the 'We Love Katanning Workshops' that are coming up and that the Shire would like some feedback on how it might continue to promote them as the Shire will be looking at every channel we can to get them out there.

Cr Guidera Response.

Cr Guidera commented that the Shire maybe able to get Australia South West to push them out. Cr Guidera shared that the Shire is new to the Tourism Strategy but the Shire do have product which is a good thing.

Alan McFarland question

Mr McFarland suggested getting the stories to the WA Tourism website and other things like that as much as the Shire can.

Marvin Hettner question

Mr Hettner raised the issue of water in the district and how limited it is at the moment and stated that he didn't know what the Shire had done to investigate the situation and shared that he had only dam with water, some bores and scheme water. Mr Hettner queried if the Shire had done surveys on how everyone was going and commented that he had spoken to Darren West regarding the million-dollar funding that was available. Mr Hettner stated he felt it was an

issue the Shire needed to be aware of and continued to say that the standpipe out on Nookanellup Road is closed or not working.

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy commented that because the Water Corporation put the price of water up last year there is a number of Stand Pipes that are 50 or 80 ml that the Shire did close, one was out that way. Mr Murphy informed Mr Hettner that the Standpipes are very old, and the Shire is struggling to keep them going, there has been some tanks installed on other standpipes to draw water straight out of the tanks. Mr Murphy shared that there are still some problems with Baker Road stand pipe because the Shire is waiting for parts to get it operational and that the intention, hopefully, when the million dollars comes through from the government the Shire can substantially upgrade the stand pipes and make them more reliable.

Mr Murphy explained that the Shire had not done surveys in the terms of water shortages.

Marvin Hettner question

Mr Hettner stated that he wondered if the Shire had any data on how the farmers are situated with water and that it is something the Shire should be aware of.

Julian Murphy response

Mr Murphy explained that the Shire has been surveyed by the State Government with respect to community water supplies and the Shire has been able to feed that information back, this has only been in the last week as it is a developing issue. Mr Murphy commented that if the government wanted to extend the water deficient declarations as they have already done that out east in the Shire of Kent and the Shire of Lake Grace and those areas, if they look to bring that further west they will come to us and start to survey, at this stage the Shire have not made any approach to state government.

Cr Guidera Response.

Cr Guidera commented that it certainly is an issue and after her experience being out on the farm today, she felt that one of the biggest risks will be if we have another fire and have got no water. Cr Guidera shared that most people were carting water for their houses that were not on scheme, cleaning out dams and carting water for stock.

Mr Doug Cherry Question

Mr Cherry stated that he would like to congratulate the Shire as a whole, both Councilors and Staff members on the Welcome Precinct. Mr Cherry commented that when he hit the roundabout, he felt proud to be a Katanning person as it really invites everyone in. He shared that when he was on the All Ages Playground Committee there was a bit of pushing and shoving but what Katanning ended up with was something that the community wanted and something that the designers needed and that the committee came up with great solutions.

Mr Cherry shared that with the couple of community things that he was involved with that the council staff had been very responsive to anything that he had asked for. Mr Cherry thanked everyone and stated that it made their life much easier and noted that in particular the outside staff they just appear and clean up and it is something that he as an individual really appreciates and it makes the town look spick and span.

Lloyd Young Statement

Mr Young stated that he would like to confirm what Mr Cherry said, he commented that he didn't know what the cost to the Shire was to the entrance and also the short term stay park has made a huge improvement on what was on the side of the road before .

Cr Guidera Response.

Cr Guidera stated that she would like to acknowledge and thank Julian Murphy the CEO for his leadership with the community and his guidance and patience in some respects and resilience in the face of challenges. Cr Guidera shared that at last year's Annual Electors Meeting it was said that it did not look like much had been done but a lot of planning had been, there were 200 meetings and that it is fantastic to sit here now and the All Ages Playground and Welcome Precinct has come to fruition.

Cr Guidera expressed that this is something that we should all be very proud of, the whole community and that this had absolutely been driven by staff and Council, partnered all the way through with community and the funding bodies as the Shire could never have done it by itself .

Cr Guidera commented that keeping the old theme as the Shire promised it would, what we have got is something that will improve the quality of life of the people of Katanning and our visitors for many years to come.

Cr Guidera stated that she is very proud to lead this Shire along with fellow Councilors because everyone is doing a good job as well as Julian, Heidi and Lisa the Shire executives. Cr Guidera shared that everyone is working really hard for Katanning that everyone of the Councilors has a fantastic commitment and thanked them for that commitment and support that they all give to the community.

Cr Guidera stated that Katanning has a really good bunch of people, with all the staff and Council and it is all the way through, and it is making a difference and the community is very appreciative and that is fantastic. Cr Guidera expressed that we all are very lucky to live in Katanning, she commented that at the fire ground today and there was 40 people there and it was a scary fire that jumped a road with wind that was out of control, they are still mopping up out there now and they will be monitoring it tomorrow and that is only one example where community steps up. Cr Guidera noted that every person in this room can name another time where people just step up and support you in this community and we should be really proud that we live in Katanning and that Katanning is a really great place to be.

Cr Guidera expressed that we all should be really enthusiastic about 2020 there are some really great opportunities and Council look forward to sharing them with the community and sitting here next year and talking about what a great year we have had.

Cr Guidera thanked everyone for their attendance and commented that next year the meeting will be held in Council Chambers.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.