

SHIRE OF KATANNING

ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

Minutes for the Annual Electors Meeting of the Shire of Katanning held on
Tuesday 2 February 2016 in the Pioneer Room,
commencing at 7.30 pm.

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
Uwe Striepe, Director of Engineering & Development Services
Sam Davis, Executive Manager of Strategic Projects
Taryn Human, PA to the Chief Executive Officer
Cherrie Campbell, PA to Director of Engineering & Development Services

Electors: Norman Flugge
John Murray
Shirley Brockenshire
Norman Holzknecht
Irene Farrow
Colin S Beeck
Edna Monck
Fred Monck
Julie Stock
Wilma Severin
Doreen Catling

Tim Catling
Len Galneggia
Michelle Dennis
John Goodheart
John Lockhart
Nancy Wake
J Smid
Nereda Hicks
Des Hicks
David Phillips
Rosemary McFarland
Matt Collis
Jenny Hobley
Mike Hobley
Jennifer Dowling
Doug Cherry
Lesley Balinski
Pamela Murray
Anslie Evans
Val Philpot
Isobel Bradbury
Clarrie Bradbury
Isabel Woodall
Diana Paini
Derek Stock
Tania Wolfe
Teresa Flugge
David Williams
Adela Collin
Peggy Sambell
Jim Sambell
Cynthia Kowald
Alan McFarland
Gareth Thomas

Apologies:

Andrew Holden, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Sarah Taylor, Director of Corporate & Community Services
Diana Marsh, Manager of Finance
Shirley King Ching, Projects Manager
Doug and Sue Cherry
Peter Rundle
Gladys Wells
Neville Wells
Lyn Coleman
Bill Coleman
Peter Kerin
Andrea Salmond

Good Evening

Welcome everyone to this Annual Electors meeting.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Noongar – Goreng people, and their ancestors past and present.

As you will see the Annual Report relates to a period prior to my election and Julian Murphy's appointment, without firsthand experience of these events we will endeavor to answer questions you have tonight to the best of our ability.

From the outset I would like to acknowledge that many of the issues raised by the community at last year's Electors meeting – were indeed founded. I thought it then – I know it now. And I do congratulate the Community for taking a strong stand for the future of our town. The community made the change happen your voice made the difference.

A question was asked at last year's March Full Council meeting as a follow up to the Electors meeting – unfortunately the minutes don't reflect who asked the question but the question was this:

"I don't think that just saying that the Shire does not have problems is good enough for the community to believe anymore. How does Council plan to deal with perceived beliefs in the community and be more open and respectful in general?

It has been a common theme – so many people have asked me since the October elections "are we allowed to talk to Councillors now" which gives some indication of the previous culture

So the answer is definitely Yes – this is (some of) what a Councillors role is as defined by the Act

A Councillor

- represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district
- facilitates communication between the community and the council

So very clear there – it is imperative that Councillors listen and talk to members of our community so they can make good decisions around the Council table.

The other part of that persons question was about being open. My belief has always been that Local Government should be open and accountable close to the community– and fiscally responsible – and can I clarify that, I believe that should be with ratepayers money or any grant money that our community is fortunate enough to acquire.

In relation to being more respectful in general we believe a key to this is better communication with the community. A willingness to answer people's questions and a preparedness to be open and accountable.

On some of the other issues raised last year:

Main Street

To deny that there were problems with the Main street development from design to execution would be farcical – the fact that it impacted so many people is regrettable. The broken pavers have been fixed and the street is functional and looks quite good– but we will have to monitor both the integrity of the pavers and the overall cleanliness with that design in the short/medium term. And be assured that we will.

The materials are certainly not the most ideal – and if we could start again with the amount of money the council of the day had and involving the community more I believe we would have had a very different and improved outcome. But for now we have to live with what we have and make the most of that. Certainly the Town Square is an asset and appears to be well used, once the car parking behind the square is complete it should allow much better access for customers down that end of town.

I will quickly touch on staff issues – last year there were a number of questions and concerns about staff put to the President – without an overall acknowledgement of any real issues. Most of the Councillors are not of that belief. Most of the issues raised last year I believe pretty much hit the nail on the head. Whilst Council does not get involved in staff matters except through the CEO – I believe it is a priority of Council to show Leadership in maintaining a workplace that is both professional and supportive.

Our CEO has taken the necessary steps of contracting an outside professional to conduct a whole of workforce review. Council hopes that on the completion of the review and in conjunction with the CEO we will be able promote a Policy that encourages a positive working environment at the Shire of Katanning – and that Katanning is a place of choice to be employed – as it should be.

Some of the challenges we face as a Council are significant - there is going to be a period of change where things are going to have to be revisited or re structured, this Council is charged with re positioning the Katanning Shire so it can move forward - we acknowledge that it can't be done until some of the legacy issues are addressed. Unfortunately some of this process will take time – so I ask for your patience.

One of the biggest challenges facing our Council is communication. It is imperative that we find successful ways to communicate effectively with our community – especially in relation to projects. We will be working on this topic over the coming months.

I would like to thank Councillors for their work with the new Council and Leadership team – my special thanks to Deputy President Craig McKinley – Craig is always positive and I appreciate that you have stepped in to represent the Shire over the last couple of months.

I would also like to acknowledge our CEO Julian Murphy – Julian has been with us for nearly 6 months – it has not been an easy 6 months – I must acknowledge the ethical and professional way in which Julian is dealing with some of the legacy issues that are complex and require a high level of tact and skill and can I say Julian's communication skills have been appreciated by both community, councillors and staff.

I wish to reiterate our confidence in Julian's capacity as CEO and assure the community that he has our full support.

Finally thank you to the community who have supported the new Council and are facing the new year with a positive view of Katanning – the future depends on all of us.

We look forward to making progress, having learnt from the experiences of the past and with positive aspirations for our community's future.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

MOVED: NEREDA HICKS

SECONDED: TERESA FLUGGE

- 1. That the Annual Financial Report for 2014/2015 be received; and**

CARRIED

MOVED: COLIN BEECK

SECONDED: LESLEY BALINSKI

- 2. That the Shire President's Report be received.**

CARRIED

MOVED: MIKE HOBLEY

SECONDED: JOHN GOODHEART

- 3. That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.**

CARRIED

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Questions from the floor

1. Mike Hobley

Flicking through the report there is a pretty picture of the flour mill, do you have a progress report on the Dome situation.

Liz Guidera

I phoned Nigel Oakley this afternoon just in case we had that question tonight and you will be pleased to hear that at this stage they will commence clean up and strip the building probably in the next fortnight. Nigel is hoping to have a meeting this week where he will be close to having a mock up. He had indicated after the election he was looking at having a community meeting sometime in the future to let people know more about the development. I called him today to ask if he still intends to do this and he certainly does so keep your eyes and ears out in the paper, Facebook and anywhere else we can put it. Probably the end of February was the timing he was talking about. He has got some exciting developments especially in the technology area that they are looking at, I know he has got an historian on board. It's an exciting project and he does intend to keep the community up to date with the developments.

2. Nereda Hicks

A fortnight ago when we had that downpour, the main street coped really well with the rain considering the amount that we had, but I must say that Richardson Street did not. We got flooded out in the post office. I've never seen water come down the driveway down the back there. The drain that is there doesn't cope, the big drain does but the small drain, the new one that was put in by the time the leaves and everything go on it, it just built up and because of that hump that goes over to Clive Street it just builds up like a swimming pool, like a dam and it just came up and up and it was not far from the front door. So I'm concerned about that with us coming up to winter and apparently we're going to get storms like that again in the next couple of weeks. So I'm just concerned with that dammy area in Richardson Street.

Uwe Striepe

We did have a slight blockage in the Richardson Street pipe and we're still going to do some work in the laneway so we will look into relieving some of that system and take some of water down the laneway to prevent anything happening.

Something was blocking the pipe so we have undone that blockage. When we construct some storm water down the laneway which is the next thing we can take some of that flow and bring it down that side so that will be an insurance.

3. Julie Stock

Would like to ask why there are still Christmas decorations still up in town, are they going to be taken down?

Liz Guidera

Interesting enough someone was telling me today that the City of Perth still have theirs up and I drove through Donnybrook and they still have theirs up as well. I'm sure it's on the list of things to do.

4. Jim Sambell

While we are talking about drainage and the rain. I would like to ask the Councillors if they could take a few minutes and take a drive up to Kobeelya Avenue and have a look and see at the antiquated system down that slope and perhaps they will also add in the fact that everytime we have significant rain, flooding is occurring in the houses and the property adjacent to the trees. Most recently this happened and one of the houses was invaded by the water and the carpets were flooded and 2 other houses one which we live in came within centimeters of going under. So it's an antiquated system and needs attention. I would like to ask some of you to have a look partially where the flats are and the adjacent houses are. That is where the water is overtaking the situation.

Liz Guidera

I do know, I had a resident call me during the rain event and Councillor Van Koldenhoven went and had a look so it is definitely on the list to address.

Uwe Striepe

I was at the residence when it flooded and one of the unfortunate things is the floor level of the house is lower than the verge so if there is a problem the water will run down the driveway to the front entrance. We will have a look to see what we can do but it is difficult to solve.

Liz Guidera

We will definitely have a look and add it to the list.

5. Peggy Sambell

The drains that come down the street, who's responsibility is it to keep the drains in the verge part cleared? Is it our responsibility or does it belong to the shire?

Liz Guidera

The cross over pipes are the residence and the drains are the Shire's responsibility.

6. David Williams

On page 4 of the annual report, they missed out the aboriginal Evangelical church we have been existent since 1974 and thanked the Shire for their support on that.

Liz Guidera

Thank you David

7. Diana Piani

Would like an indication when the car parking behind the town square will be completed.

Liz Guidera

The acquittal for those funds for the carpark and that part of the main street development has to be done before May. So we will be done before May. We did have a look the other day and we not only looking at the parking behind the Town Square but potential parking behind the business Sports Power and Swags and Wags. The laneway will be upgraded and we do have agreement with Sports Power to do some extra parking.

8. Colin Beeck

Would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Shire for the work that they have been doing on the Unit Hotel it is fantastic.

I was wondered why I was charged \$10 for an annual report.

Liz Guidera

I'm glad I stopped you on the way in and said why do you have a receipt and you said it's for your annual report so I said did you have to pay for it and you said yes I did. I spoke to Julian who advised that is on the scheduled charges. Council will look into this at budget time and I don't believe you should be charged for it.

9. Edna Monck

Getting back to drainage, there is none in our street. We used to have spoon drains many years ago but since the road has been altered the camber of the footpath comes down into our property which we have had brick paving put down in a cement apron but the water in the last deluge and one last year that Richard (Bralich) came to look at and filled with blue metal it's quite deep and it floods into our drive way but also in the house next door and the house further down. There's just no drainage from about number 24 Chipper Street down.

They put speed hump a few houses up to try and divert to the road but that didn't work either.

Liz Guidera

Uwe please can you make a note of that please 24, 26 Chipper Street.

Julian Murphy

We have certainly had a lot of those sorts of reports from residence so we will take them on board and see what we can do as we go through our general maintenance.

10. Jim Sambell

Last year we had our electors meeting at the town hall and I have been there a couple of time there before. One of the matters I raised with the existing CEO and maybe one or 2 here present that those tier seats that go up are a death trap to someone. Not sure what the health and safety rules say how far up the step should be I know it's not much. The main thing is when you walk up those steps and you turn to go down to find a seat as an old person you all are on your own, you go higher up in a new situation and you turn around and the first thing you do is put your hand on the seat in front to get some balance. Once you do that all the seats go down. It just disappears so you think is the stability you going to get with your hand is not there and I feel very strongly that this is a dangerous situation and I think it would be very bad of us as a council or as a town to have some person fall down there and break their legs. I think that situation needs to be looked at, I don't know how it can be corrected maybe a simple matter but at the moment I think it's a trap waiting and to embarrass all of us.

Liz Guidera

Thank you Jim for bringing that to our attention. We can certainly look into that. There might be able to put some tape on the stairs so people can see the depth as there are no handrails.

Michelle did you have a comment about this particular thing?

Michelle Dennis

I was going to make a comment quickly. They not supposed to be actually folded down in the sitting position when you go to sit in them; they not supposed to be put down so when you have them up there in the right position so if you want use them as a hand rail they don't move. But what tends to happen is when they put out people put them down so that they got the butt bit in the prime position but they are not supposed to be folded down. There were instructions but I don't know where they ended up they did exist. Council made a conscious decision at that time not to have handrails to minimise the set up for community groups.

Liz Guidera

Thank you we will follow that up.

11. Teresa Flugge

Can I ask about the verges around town? There was always someone coming around doing the verges but for the last 6 months it hasn't been done. It doesn't look nice around town at all.

On the corner of Arbour Street and Beaufort Street there has been a big hole in the road and it's had this orange thing around it and its very dangerous. I was wondering when someone is going to fix that.

Uwe Striepe

Telstra used boring machines, they bored through our storm water pipe. Telstra has come to look and have assessed it. I need to follow up again because they have to come and fix it.

Liz Guidera

Thanks Uwe can you add it to the list. Can you also comment on the verge maintenance.

Uwe Striepe

We still do verge maintenance, I need to follow up those particular ones. Thank you for bringing it to our attention, you are our eyes and ears and we would like to attend to it.

12. Norman Flugge

Given the recent rain fall events has the shire conducted a rural roads review to survey the damage and have they developed a strategy for resheeting / remediation repair maintenance of said roads.

Julian Murphy

The rain event has been declared an eligible natural disaster by the state government on behalf of the federal government. Our Shire and our neighbouring shires have been approved for funding to re-instate the roads. There are some processes we need to go through but we will do the initial opening up, spread gravel around to make it trafficable again and then we have to submit a full budget estimate and claim to WANDRRA. Once that is approved we can do the remediation works. We did an initial review straight away and we estimate \$800 000 in works at this time. It has affected us and we will be doing it but it will take some time with the tender processes for a contractor etc.

13. David Phillips

Requested that Shire President repeat the question when it is asked.

Liz Guidera

Apologised and would repeat the question.

14. Pam Murray

John and I live on Albion Street this is just an enquiry. We can walk to the shop and we always do walk to the shop. Go up a lane by the side of Todd's motor place and go through another lane that goes behind ANZ Bank. We always call this glass alley because it's full of glass all the time. We just want to know if this is privately owned or does it belong to the Shire?

Julian Murphy

I'm not entirely sure of the ownership but this is the area behind the police station as well. There is a lot of antisocial behavior there, we have got a grant application to put more CCTV cameras, we're hoping this will be some sort of deterrent.

Nereda Hicks

Asked if there was going to be anymore cameras being put in Clive Street further down.

Julian Murphy

More cameras will be put behind Town Square.

Liz Guidera

Asked Nereda Hicks where she thinks they should put more.

Nereda Hicks

In the middle of Clive Street as the post office truck was robbed and the police had nothing to go on due to their being no cameras in that vicinity.

Diana Piani

Advised that the CCTV'S on her side of the street were initiated by the business association quite a few years ago but they were privately paid for.

Julian Murphy

We have applied for more but I don't know the location of them in Clive Street.

15. Teresa Flugge

Can I ask about the swimming pool and heating and the prices of the swimming pool. I think its \$4.50 a child and \$5.00 an adult. I know it's the YMCA I have looked around and we have the dearest, Kojonup is \$2.00.

Craig McKinley

Its pretty much on par it's not much difference in it. I don't have the figures on me, Sam might?

Sam Davis

No I don't sorry.

Craig McKinley

I have a season pass so mine is easy. We will look into it anyway.

Liz Guidera

Advised that those fees are set at budget and we can certainly look into them at budget. I know Cr Mckinley did some investigation looking at prices in other areas previously. We could bring that information and try and make a good decision on balancing of the cost.

Teresa Flugge

Didn't we have pipes put in for heating?

Liz Guidera

The heating is mainly for the children's area and not for the main pool but the covers were for the main pool.

Sam Davis

We have had some problems with the solenoids on the heating system. They broke 3 weeks ago and we are getting those repaired at the moment. I have been told that the pool is running at 22 degrees in the morning, 25.6 degrees in the afternoon.

I think the covers were not put on because it was a safety issue.

Liz Guidera

I'm sure Sam will make sure the maintenance is done and get those covers on and get the temperature up as well.

16. Doreen Catling

Would like to speak on behalf of the arts and crafts we use the carpark on the corner of Dore and Baker Street. Can we do anything about the gravel car park between the old Katanning Furnishings building and the old Katanning supermarket building behind the commonwealth bank?

Liz Guidera

I'm not sure if it's privately owned. We will have to follow that up for you.

Alan McFarland

Bruce Clarke owns it.

Liz Guidera

Thanks Alan we will need to chat to him. With the town main street upgrade and the change in parking. We do need to look at the parking behind the shops to make sure we have good parking for the CBD.

17. Jennifer Dowling

Since we have had the new CEO, it has been a fantastic thing. Thank you Julian so much. Everyone who has spoken to me has said there experience with Julian has been really good.

Liz Guidera

Thanks Jennifer I did acknowledge Julian in my opening address.

18. Jim Sambell

I would like to congratulate the Shire for putting the new toilets right across the road from the bus stop. It is a great thing previously when you wanted to catch the bus if you wanted to go to toilet it was 150 metres way and you could easily miss the bus. The new bus stop is great as well. But recently I went to pick up a passenger up from the bus and I stepped across to the toilet. I was amazed to find that the toilets are beautifully finished but there are no exhaust fans in them. Can the building inspector have a look at this.

Liz Guidera

Thanks Jim we do keep a close eye on those toilets and the good thing is they are unisex.

19. Shirely Brockenshire

I sent in a query about the old signage around the town. 10 or 12 shops signs that need to be covered up.

Liz Guidera

Thank you for sending that in we had an opportunity to have quick discussion on some solutions to this. We have a policy for upgrading the façade and there was a suggestion today where we could offer an incentive for business owners to paint the correct signs. It will be something we will add onto the list.

20. Shirley Brockenshire

Thank you to the shire for a more suitable venue for tonight. The tier seating is not favorable for the seniors and for those that have a disability or children. There is nothing to hold on.

I am totally amazed and delighted on the turnaround since October 2015 as the new look shire has reconnected with the community. To the new CEO Julian Murphy and the new shire president Liz Guidera and your team, thank you so much you have changed the tone of the town and its community in such a short time. Well done.

Of course there is a still lot of work to be done but at least we are now on a positive path to become a town we want to have. Thank you Julian for your positive communication with many groups in Katanning, your friendly approach is extremely appreciated.

I was speaking to one person the other day and they said they had never seen a CEO come to their group for the last 19 years. So good on you.

Liz, your dedication to Katanning is friendly and amazing. We know it's been a tough time for you at present due to your lovely mom's terminal illness, your deputy Craig has been doing a good job. Well done Craig.

The anger sadness that was tearing our community apart last year has gone. 2 reports I've had this week that the staff at the Austral Terrace offices are happy to be at work. That's super news. I had lots of them crying on my shoulders. On a personal note after settling in Katanning and supporting a town since 1972, I am

not any longer wanting to leave, our town and community is great let's keep going.

Liz Guidera

Thank you Shirley we appreciate that.

21. Mike Hobley

Could someone from the Shire speak about what you have in mind for the old ages playground precinct and that part of town. Would that be something positive we can talk about.

Liz Guidera

I asked the question today when we had an informal meeting of when we get the community involved in these projects. I think that's part of the challenge of communication of council, so there has been an application put in for a Lottery's West grant of 1 million dollars for the all ages playground. We are hopeful and have received good feedback. If we are successful with the grant we will go straight into community consultation. Lots of people in our community have great ideas and that can only mean a better project.

If we are unsuccessful with the grant we still need to raise the issue of the old ages playground at budget and allocate some funding so that its safe, neat tidy and clean and still a good place for people come and visit.

22. Norman Flugge

The financial statements specially the assets reports. I notice there was a significant revaluation of assets particularly roads. Is that a result of a change in the revaluation process because it's come off a very low base.

Julian Murphy

You're quite right there has been a change in the way the state government requires local governments to value its roads. We are now required to value on the fair replacement value so obviously the cost to replacing roads is at fair value the same with our plant, building, lands and infrastructure assets. Yes we are revaluing our roads it is under a new system but is a requirement by state government where we have to review this every couple of years.

Val Philpot

Can I ask if there is anything done about the approach to Katanning about the roundabout.

Sam Davis

We are looking at some landscaping treatments for the roundabout. We will be holding a community consultation on Monday 8 February at 12pm at the library with our consult landscape designers and they will be taking any community ideas and incorporating that into the roundabout as well. Everyone is welcome to attending that meeting.

Val Philpot

Could I suggest that they fall back on the truck and windmill as it was an attraction and people with caravans or passing would take photos of that truck and windmill.

Liz Guidera

I don't think we can put that truck in the middle roundabout because of the height but council is certainly hoping the truck and windmill be incorporated in the old ages playground overall welcome zone.

Julian Murphy

We have made an allowance for Lions Park for that very purpose but the limitations with the roundabout is that it has to be approved by Main Roads.

23. Colin Lockart

What will Piesse Lake be able to be used for, recreation purposes?

Julian Murphy

It will not be approved for swimming but you can put a kayak, paddle boats, soft boating, no motors will be allowed. We cannot guarantee the quality of that water. At the moment we are doing a review of the design which will ensure that people can get out of the water if they end up in the water. Whilst we looking at managing the water quality with Katanning Landcare to try come up with maintaining the quality of it we have no guarantee with the water especially when the temperature going up.

24. Doug Cherry

Apologies for being late. Is the heating of the swimming is being used effectively or not.

Liz Guidera

Yes it has been raised tonight and there are issues, if you chat to Sam he will tell you what's happening there.

5. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 20:43pm.