



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **28 July 2022**, commencing at 12 Noon.

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.20pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor
Cr A Whitmarsh
Cr Q Fowler
Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
Cr M Fowler
Cr G Mead

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO
Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 June 2022

Background

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 June 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 June 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For 6

Against 0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

It has been customary practice in the interests of a productive meeting in relation to the Conduct of Members during debates for the Council suspend Standing Orders 8.2 (Limitation on Number of speeches) and 8.3 (Duration of Speeches) under Local Law 2001. To facilitate this, the following recommended resolution is required.

Recommendation

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

- 8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches
- 8.3 Duration of speeches

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	M Fowler
That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:			
8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches			
8.3 Duration of speeches			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 25 August 2022

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

Item 21.1 CEO Review

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Item 17.1.1 Account Listings Paid since the last list was presented to Council

Item 21.1 CEO Review

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

President Rossco Foulkes-Taylor thanked all the generous volunteers who helped put together a very successful polocrosse carnival. He also thanked Leading Hand works Mark Jones and the rest of his crew who worked on keeping up various services required to keep the event progressing smoothly”

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

20.07.22 Hon Peter Foster, MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral Region

21.07.22 July, Meeting with Auditor General and Pitch & Partners for the Audit Exit Meeting

14.2 Councillors

Cr G Mead

20.07.22 Hon Peter Foster, MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral Region visit to the Murchison Settlement

Cr M Fowler

20.07.22 Hon Peter Foster, MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral Region visit to the Murchison Settlement

Cr E Foulkes Taylor

08.07.22 Murchison GeoRegion Meeting

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: Bill Boehm Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 27 July 2022
Attachments: Nil

General

The Works Manager has been on leave for a part of the month with Leading Hand Mark Jones providing appropriate oversight and supervision of our Works Crews support for what was a very successful Polocrosse Event in the Murchison Settlement. There were no issues of concern during Will's absence.

Prior to Will undertaking leave information was provided to ensure that all of the relevant Plant Replacement and Works Schedule issues could be addressed for the 2022/23 budget

As such a more detailed report has not been able to be provided.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Council Decision
Moved: Cr G Mead
That the Works Report be noted.
Carried
Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor
For 6
Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 25 July 2022
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 2022 (Elected Members Only)

Matter for Consideration

The *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 13* requires that if the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, then the CEO is to prepare a list of accounts paid by the CEO for each month and present this to the next ordinary meeting of the Council after the list has been prepared and have this list recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

A list of payments presented in accordance with *Regulation 13* of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* made since the last report to Council is attached.

Strategic Implications

None

Policy Implications

None

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 2022 pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items behind closed doors
- 2 That the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Voting Requirements

Recommendation 1 Absolute Majority
Recommendation 2 Simple Majority

Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That Council move the meeting to behind closed doors pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) to discuss Attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 2022

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.32pm

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That the meeting moves out from behind closed doors.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.33pm

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 17.1

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council			
1 Receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for June 2022 pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items behind closed doors			
2 That the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to councilor's be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 30 June 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 25 July 2022
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report June 2022

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

These statements are being presented to meet a statutory obligation to have each month's end and report presented within the following two months.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation

Moore Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 June 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 30 June 2022 as attached; and note that the financial statements are subject to end of year review and adjustments.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

2022 / 23 Rates Review Update Note

At the June 2022 Meeting Cr E Foulkes-Taylor requested that responses to any submissions received as part of the 2022/23 differential rates consultative process be forwarded to Councillors. The CEO provide update advice that there were no submissions received and as authorised that he and will advise Department of Local Government as part of the Submission.

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Murchison Region Vermin Cell

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 25 July 2022

Attachments: 18.1.1 Murchison Vermin Council Request
18.1.2 Murchison Vermin Cell Map

Matter for Consideration

A request from the Murchison Region Vermin Council (MRVC) for Council to provide a letter of support for the creation of an easement for the Vermin Cell fencing recently completed by the MRVC.

Request

The Chief Executive Officer of the Murchison Region Vermin Council has contacted Council confirming that the Cell has now been completed. The last section involved the construction of some 285 km of vermin fencing with funding as follows.

- ~ Commonwealth Government – Building Better Regions and Drought Funding -\$2.468 M.
- ~ WA Government – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - \$1.144 M
- ~ Local Government – Shires of Yalgoo, Mount Magnet, Sandstone and Cue -\$0.606 M

With the exception of Jingemarra Station the new vermin fence replaces existing station boundary fences. Currently the MRVC is putting together documentation required by Landgate to enable the creation of a Crown Land Easement for the new vermin fence to facilitate future maintenance and access by the MRVC.

Attached is email advice including a map that shows the section of the Murchison Regional Vermin Cell vermin fence located in our Shire.

A letter of support from Council for the Murchison Region Vermin Cell for the creation of an easement for the cell fencing is requested

Budget Considerations

Nil

Strategic Implications

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Strategies	
Small Scale Support for Vermin Control	<i>The Pastoral industry is a key industry within the Shire. Vermin issues, in particular wild dogs, have the ability to impact on the ongoing viability of the Pastoral industry within the Shire. The Shire supports a range of measures in relation to vermin control.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>

Comment

The request is clearly warranted in order to assist in ensuring that the Murchison Vermin Council's work is supported.

As an aside, given the huge importance that the pastoral sector has on the fabric of the Shire it may be appropriate to explore ways in which the Shire can have a more active role with the Council moving forward.

Statutory Environment

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil

Recommendation

That Council agree to the request from the Murchison Region Vermin Council (MRVC) and provide a letter of support for the Murchison Region Vermin Council to create and easement for the Vermin Cell fencing recently completed by the MRVC.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler
That Council agree to the request from the Murchison Region Vermin Council (MRVC) and provide a letter of support for the Murchison Region Vermin Council to create and easement for the Vermin Cell fencing recently completed by the MRVC.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Local Government Reform

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 25 July 2022

Attachments: 19.1.1 WALGA Local Government Reform Media Release
19.1.2 Summary of Proposed Reforms – Government with WALGA Comments

Matter for Consideration

Local Government Reform initiatives proposed by the Minister for Local Government.

Background

At the November 2021 Council Meeting an update report on initiatives proposed by the Minister for Local Government in relation to Local Government Reform was provided. At the December 2021 Meeting Council considered the matter and finalised its submission to the process.

Update

Since this time the Minister received and has considered a raft of submissions and recently released some results. WALGA have now issued a media release and provided a summary the latest status as per the attachments.

Comment

A general comment that has previously been provided remains valid in that it seems that the approach taken is to address issues that have been raised with further legislation, which itself may or may not be an improvement, but in effect merely modifies arguably “*around the edges*” to what already exists. There seems to be minimal consideration as to whether the current provisions are adequate or if indeed, they should be there in the first place. Structure always follows strategy, and, in this instance, there does not seem to be much strategy on how local government can contribute the overall well-being of the State.

A few brief comments in relation to specific items are provided as follows

- 0.0 General. More administration, compliance, less empowerment and more requirements to seek approvals
- 1.1 Early Intervention and Powers. Creation of a Chief Inspector for Local Government.
- 2.6 Standardised Meeting Procedures including Question Time
- 3.1 Recording of Council Meetings will be required at a minimum. Open section of meeting will be published on the Council’s Website. Closed section records are to be sent to DLGSC. This will also have budget implications and potentially alter the way meetings are conducted.
- 3.3 Significant reduction in scope of what can be discussed behind closed doors. How the payment listing for example is to be treated is unclear
- 3.4 Additional Online Registers. How privacy issues may be affected is unclear
- 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting. First past the post voting options rejected. Optional Preferential Voting as a compromise.
- 4.4 Public vote to elect a Mayor or President. This will not apply for band 3 and 4 Councils.
- 4.5 Tiered Limits on the number of Councillors. For small Council less than 5,000 people there is a local choice to decide whether to have 5,6 or 7 councillors rather than having numbers mandated as per larger populations.
- 5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act. Further clarity will assist
- 5.2 Greater role clarity.

- 5.4 Local Governments may pay superannuation to elected members if desired. Wider options to improve remuneration appear to have not been addressed.
- 5.8 CEO Recruitment. DLGSC to establish a panel of approved members as the role of an independent person. Options to use someone not on the list requires the Inspectors approval
- 6.1 Model Financial Reporting and Tired Financial Reporting. Work on Model Financial Statements is ongoing. From what has been released thus far changes are questionable and certainly not progressive.
- 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning in part by the use of standard templates. Locally derived versions to suit local needs will still be required
- 6.3 Rates and Revenue Policy. New requirement tied in part to the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plan.
- 6.5 Amended Financial Ratios. Ongoing work foreshadowed.
- 6.6 Audit Committee. Independent chair only required with remuneration optional

Council may wish to provide a further submission or rely on WALGA'S Advocacy

Statutory Environment

A raft of potential amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 are expected to be delivered.

Policy, Strategic, Risk and Financial Implications

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1995 as part of this reform will likely impact in some way in all such areas

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer Local Government Reform Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council note the Chief Executive Officer Local Government Reform Report			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
 Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
 Date: 25 July 2022
 Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to meet requests from Councils Auditor, which have been provided this end in a timely manner. This has resulted in an unqualified Audit Report with no substantive issues identified. A very significant amount of work has been undertaken with respect to preparing the 2023 Draft Budget as well as preparing for and following up with respect to Council's Meeting with the Hon Peter Foster, MLC Member for the Mining and Member for Mining and Pastoral Region.

Date	Activity
21.06.22	TOIL. Admin Emails Budget Work
22.06.2022	Started Timesheet for year. Fire Slip on Unity Memo. DFES Flood Letter and Attachments. Freight Memo Review. Meeting with public customer. Meeting with Will.
23.06.2022 to 25.06.2022	Council Meeting & follow up Council actions and Budget Work
26.06.2022	Administration. Budget Work
27.06.2022	TOIL. Asset Data Base Work
28.06.2022	TOIL Budget Work
29.06.2022	Administration and Emails. Main Roads Certificate Completion. Budget Work.
30.06.2022 to 1.07.2022	Budget Work.
2.07.2022	Budget Work. Meeting with Works Manager
3.07.2022	Budget Work
4.07.2022	Roadhouse Handover Stocktake Work. Budget Work.
5.07.2022	Roadhouse Handover Stocktake Work. Works Fuel. Budget Work. Touch base with Gardener/ Handyman.
6.07.2022	Works & Roadhouse Fuel End of Year reconciliation
7.07.2022	Works & Roadhouse Fuel End of Year reconciliation. Budget Work. Meeting and briefing with Phil Swain. Lodge Main Roads WA Claim.
8.07.2022	Budget Work. Meeting with Manager Community Development - DCEO
9.07.2022 to 17.07.2022	Budget Work and General Administration
18.07.2022 to 19.07.2022	Budget Work. Administration. Work on Hon Peter Foster Brief
20.07.2022	Meeting with Hon Peter Foster, MLC Member for Mining and Pastoral Region and finalise and send follow up information
21.07.2022	Discussions with Financial Accountant. Work on Budget, Roadhouse Stats and Audit Work. Attend Audit Exit Meeting via Teams,
22.07.2022	Discussions with Financial Accountant. Budget & Audit follow up work
23.07.2022 to 24.07.2022	Budget Work
25.07.2022	Agenda and Budget Work. Attend MEG Meeting at Murchison

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor
That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

President R Foulkes-Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12.56pm

21 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

President R Foulkes-Taylor reopened the meeting at 1.45pm

When the meeting was reopened staff members Bill Boehm (CEO), Steven Cosgrove (Community Manager DCEO) and Travis Bate (RSM Financial Accountant) were not present

Urgent Business Items foreshadowed at Item 10 to be discussed behind closed doors

21.1 CEO Review

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	E Foulkes-Taylor	Seconded: Cr	A Whitmarsh
That Council accept as Urgent Business and moves behind closed doors to discuss the following items pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(c), (d) & (e)			
21.1 CEO Review			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 1.45pm

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr M Fowler		
That Council move the meeting out of closed doors.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 3.29pm

Bill Boehm (CEO), Steven Cosgrove (Community Manager DCEO) returned to the meeting

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr G Mead	Seconded: Cr M Fowler		
That Council receives the confidential report from Fitz Gerald Strategies on the CEO's Performance Review and that Council endorses the recommendations contained within the report.			
Carried	For	6	Against 0

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 3.32pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2022	
Signed.....	Presiding Officer