



murchisonshire

Ancient land under brilliant skies

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
on Thursday **22 September 2022**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Cr Q Fowler

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Cr M Fowler

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO

Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager DCEO

William Herold – Works Manager

Leave of Absence

Cr A Whitmarsh

Cr G Mead

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 August 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 25 August 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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		Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For		Against

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 October 2022

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President**14.2 Councillors**

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 16 September 2022
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The blast of a hill on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road, set off by Lisa, created a fair amount of excitement as well as leaving a mountain of dirt to be moved. Hopefully by the 15th we would have cleared it and start the compaction and sheeting early in the week of 19th September. Stabilised Pavements of Australia (SPA) have cement stabilised the floodways and stockpiling of all required gravel has been completed. On completion of this job the crews will spend a few weeks patching potholes in the bitumen on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road. They will then move on to the Beringarra-Pindar Road to commence their work there. This will entail some re-sheeting work as well as work on floodways and the removal of some old and undersized culverts at the Bumbinyoo Flat.

Maintenance

The maintenance crew have completed the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road, New Forrest-Yallalong Road, Coolcalalaya Road to the rabbit proof fence on the Northampton side and are re-grading the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road north of the Settlement. They will also be involved in the pothole patching.

Flood Damage

At last the flood damage packages have cranked up for Floods 8, 9 and 10. Squires Resources commenced work on Tuesday September 13 on the McNabb-Twin Peaks Road. They will then move onto the Beringarra-Pindar Road.

Settlement Water Supply

Comments and suggestions have been sent back to GHD with regard to pipe type and size, disinfection and firefighting facilities. At the time of writing this report we have had no further feedback.

Beringarra-Cue Road – revert to unsealed road

By the time Council meets, Rowe Contractors should have completed somewhere around 40km as well as putting in several new bunds. Apart from some weather delays they are progressing very well and delivering work of a very high standard. I suggest as many Councillors as possible make time to look at it at some stage in the future.

Sealing

A RFQ was run through the WALGA equotes portal with 3 companies quoting. After consultation and evaluation with Greenfield Technical Services. Bitutek were the clear winners of the process. Hopefully they will be able to fit in with our time schedule and we can commence sealing in early November.

Gardener/Handyman

After Ryan's resignation we welcomed Des O'Brien to the team. Des has brought considerable experience with him, appears to have settled in and is getting on with the job at hand. We welcome Des and Wendy into the community and hope it turns out to be a long stay.

6 Kurara Way

AGFIX Multitrades has made a start on the repair and renovation of number 6. I suspect it will be at least 3 or 4 months work before completion.

Maintenance Vehicle

Budget provided for the replacement of the Maintenance Gang's Isuzu Truck with a Landcruiser Utility. New vehicles now notoriously difficult to secure without a long waiting period but fortuitously by acting quickly we were able to source one in Perth. This was picked up in Perth by Mike Keen and arrived last week.

MRWA Regional Road Group Funding

As foreshadowed submissions for the reconstruction and widening of the following sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road were submitted for Regional Road Group Funding for 2023/24.

- ~ SLK 190.21-193.42 north of the Twin Peaks-Wooleen Road
- ~ SLK 222.83-226.47 north of the Ballinyoo Bridge.

Estimated Project cost for each project is \$450k with funding on a 2:1 basis (\$300k each)

Projects were assessed by Main Roads and then presented along with others in the region to the Technical Working Group for review. At the 15 September 2022 Meeting of the Murchison Regional Roads Sub Group held in Murchison, and chaired by Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor, the Technical Working Groups recommendations to endorse the program as reviewed were accepted. A request for additional Reserve Projects to be submitted was also endorsed. This means that at this stage all projects submitted by all Shires, which includes our two projects, are likely to be funded. There is also good value in applying for a reserve project for a similar widening project.

The Murchison Regional Roads Sub Group also examined a floodway discussion paper prepared by the CEO and have recommended that a floodway criterion also be examined for inclusion into the scoring matrix. It was also noted that the Technical Working Group will also be examining the Road Type Descriptions specifically in relation to criteria for seal widths for sealing roads within the region. In part it has been noted that traffic criteria were set in 1999 and now do not now relate to what is happening, which is sealing a road actually happens in practice with sealing a road now to a minimum of 7.0m width. The option of sealing only 4.0m is not current best practice. Both these aspects are welcome.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirement

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

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: 21 August 2022
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 August 2022 and that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) items that this be discussed 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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried	For	Against

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

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

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 16 September 2022
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 2022

Note this matter was held over from the previous meeting as at the time the Council Budget had not been adopted and as a result some of the financial comparisons were not able to be undertaken

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

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 July 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 August 2022

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 16 September 2022
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report August 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

RSM Australia

Recommendation

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 August 2022 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Report

File:

Author: Steven Cosgrove – Community Manager / DCEO

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 15 September 2022

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Update report of various Community Economic Development Projects and Actions undertaken within the Murchison Shire.

National Science Week

Through successful National Science Week funding, members of Scitech attended the settlement and showcased their Solar System Workshop which run continuously for 5 hours.

The Shire worked collaboratively with CSIRO and members of the MRO Site in Murchison who were in attendance throughout the event and kindly offered catering of delicious healthy foods. Additionally, they set up flying rocket activities for all the children.

The Shire was very excited to host this event for the first time. It was celebrated by Murchison locals, Indigenous Pia Wadjari community and fellow travellers and tourists. Additionally, this event led to further securing the “Traditional Aboriginal Science and Contemporary Science” STEM learning project for the Pia Wadjari Remote School, funded by Curtin University.

2022 WA Tourism Conference

Community Manager/DCEO recently attended the 2022 WA Tourism Conference held at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre. In attendance, and not limited too, were Shire CEO's, Deputy CEO's and local government elected members. Basil Zemplis opened the event by stating that Perth is the City of Lights and finished with the observation that WA's rural and remote towns are home to the world's least 'light polluted' areas. This was the perfect segway into a panel discussion around 'Dark Sky Tourism & the 2023 Ningaloo Eclipse', facilitated by Ross Dowling AM and included Paul Hanlon, Shire of Ashburton Manager Business and Economic Development, Carol Redford, Astrotourism WA Founder, Jim Sharp, Tourism WA Ningaloo Eclipse Working Group Chair and Rick Tonello, Gravity Discovery Centre & Observatory Chief Astronomer.

With Murchison Shire's recent successful grant applications towards the 'Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival', commencing 15 April 2023, the conference served as a perfect opportunity to liaise with many stakeholders and increase awareness.

Swimming Pool & Splashpad

As identified in the adopted Murchison Settlement Masterplan Report the establishment of the Swimming Pool & Splashpad components are pivotal project linking both community service improvements as well as assisting to increase tourism visitation. Facilities include a 16.7m swimming pool, splash pad, paving, sunshades, and landscaped gardens.

As previously advised, we were encouraged to seek funding assistance through the Regional Economic Development Process with Lottery West also keen to support with an emphasis on enhancing tourism development. As a result the Shire has applied for \$250,000 through the Regional Economic Development grant. A further \$250,000 is being requested from Lotterywest.

Following discussions with the CEO options to seek some sort of Recreational funding were explored, essentially with a community development focus. As it transpires, whilst timelines for funding applications are short closing at the end of September, a meaningful application is still possible

Accordingly, a further \$250,000 is being requested through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).

Under this funding program one condition of eligibility is that the Shire agrees to fill the gap to meet the balance of the proposed project, if successful with funding and that the Shire agrees to undertake the ongoing of maintenance of the facilities. Whilst implicit in the other funding applications mentioned, and in our situation generally a “given,” this application requires Council to specifically recognise this aspect through noting this report.

Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival (ALUBSF)

The ‘Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival’ as planned in April 2023 will also cater for the local and wider Murchison and Mid-West community. It will also align with the April 2023 Solar Eclipse, it will provide a positive space to celebrate the Murchison showcasing Astro dark sky tourism, science tourism and geo-tourism assets.

It is expected the event will generate additional tourism income for the Murchison community by increasing visitor numbers and expenditure in the area, encouraging visitors to take a road trip through stunning outback Gascoyne and Murchison station stay country. It will also attract media coverage and raise the profile of the Murchison as a Western Australian premium Astro tourism destination.

Summary table below with updates on current funding applications for community development projects.

Project	Progress
The Pia Wadjarri Community Funding Application Indigenous Language and Arts (ILA) April 2023 – Mosaic Workshops	Grant Successful Postponed to April 2023.
National Science Week – Scitech. August 2022	Grant Successful. Acquittal complete.
Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival (ALUBSF) Regional Events Scheme Tourism WA Funding Lotterywest Grant Building Better Regions Fund Grant Application CSIRO Sponsorship	Grant Successful Grant Successful Awaiting Outcome Awaiting Outcome
Traditional Aboriginal Science & Contemporary Science STEM Program	Funded through Curtin University
Swimming Pool & Splashpad Regional Economic Development Grant Lotterywest Grant Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF).	Awaiting Outcome In Progress In Progress

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>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire</i>
<i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i>	<i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation</i>
Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>

Statutory Environment

Nil

Financial Implications

Expenses for the Pia Wadjari Community Funding Application Indigenous Language and Arts (ILA), National Science Week and Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies Festival are included in the 2022/23 Budget.

Expenses for the Swimming Pool & Splashpad will require a budget amendment, the extent of and timing of which will be known once outcomes of grant applications are known.

Consultation

CEO, Mid-West Development Commission and applicable potential funding partners

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 2022 WA Local Government Convention

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Attendee

Date 16 September 2022

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Endorsement of Council representation at the 2022 WA Local Government Convention in Perth

Comment

All Councils are invited to attend the annual WALGA Local Government Convention. Under Council Policy 2.2 Councillor Expenses, the Shire President is authorised to attend, with the CEO also provided an opportunity if circumstances permit. Other councillors are also eligible. Prior to any Councillor attending, the matter is to be discussed at the Council Meeting prior to the conference and a motion put and carried supporting which councillors are to attend and in what capacity

This year's conference is scheduled for Sunday 2 October 2022 to Tuesday 4 October 2022. Expressions of interest have been received by Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor and Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor to register as delegates. As CEO I also propose to attend, in part as I have not yet attended any of the previous conferences since commencing with the Shire.

Given that registrations closed on 14 September 2022 all have been registered. Council endorsement is requested.

Policy Implications

Policy 2.2 Councillor Expenses

Financial Implications

Provision has been made in the 2022/23 budget.

Recommendation

That Council endorse Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor and Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor attending the 2022 WALGA Local Government Convention as delegates and the actions taken by the CEO for both to attend along with the CEO.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

19.2 Community Member Memorial Policy

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 16 September 2022

Attachments: 19.2.1 Draft Policy 5.7 Community Member Memorials

Matter for Consideration

Development of a Community Member Memorial Policy.

Background

Last month Council received a request from a family member of a former late councillor wishing to erect a memorial plaque at the base of a tree adjacent to the rear of the Council Office and Playground as part of the existing memorial avenue established some years ago for this purpose.

Following a brief investigation, it became apparent that no requests had ensured for many years and that there was no policy in place with any application traditionally considered on its merits. It was also thought that a number of years ago around the 1990's the community was requested to provide details of potential new applicants although this action does not appear to have been documented.

At the time Council's intention always was that these plaques be a discreet and respectful recognition/memory of those former long term Murchison residents and that these plaques didn't become a shrine (fake flowers, crosses, wreaths etc).

In the meantime, Council has proceeded in continuing development of a cemetery (officially opened in May 1988) and is also developing a rammed earth cemetery wall for the expressed purpose of providing people with the opportunity of erecting a plaque erected as a memorial to those that have historically lived and resided within the Murchison Shire.

In considering this request Council discussed the matter ahead of 25 August Council Meeting and confirmed that the overall intention is to move away from having memorial plaques adjacent to trees within the centre of the settlement in favour of a plaque on a rammed earth wall that is being constructed at the cemetery and that a policy be put in place. An option was offered to the applicant of being the first person with a memorial plaque on the new wall, or the last person associated with a tree which would be as part of the existing line of gum trees.

Comment

In line with the above understanding an attached draft policy is attached for consideration and refinement.

Recommendation

That Council adopt Policy 5.7 Community Memorial Policy as attached with amendments, if any, made at the meeting

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 18 September 2022
Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided

Date	Activity
28.08.2022	Agenda Follow up
29.08.2022	Tool Box Meeting. Meetings with Works Manager & Depot Officer. Agenda follow up work
30.08.2022	Agenda follow up work. Phone discussion with Joanne Fabling Mid-West Chamber of Commerce. Teams meeting with GRA. Roads to Recovery Work
31.08.2022	Meeting with Will. Annual Report Finalisation. LRCIP Phase 1 Acquittal work. Roads to Recovery Acquittal work.
1.09.2022	LRCIP Acquittal Work. Flood Recovery Administration. Meeting with Eamon Hannon Buxton Resources.
2.09.2022 to 3.09.2022	General Administration.
5.09.2022	Drive to and from Geraldton. Attend Main Roads WA Technical Working Group Meeting
6.09.2022	Meeting with Works Manager. Main Roads WA roadworks program. General Administration
7.09.2022	Water Supply Project follow up. Main Roads WA roadworks program. CGG Carnarvon-Mullewa follow up work.
8.09.2022	CGG Carnarvon-Mullewa follow up work. PIA Visit
9.09.2022	CGG Carnarvon-Mullewa follow up work. Telephone catchup with Shire President. WALGA Road Expenditure Return
12.09.2022	Separate meetings with Community Manager-DCEO, Works Manager and Parks & Gardens / Handyman. WALGA Road Expenditure Return. Memorial Plaques follow up. Several telephone discussions with Rossco
13.09.2022	WALGA Road Expenditure Return. Meeting with Steven. Main Roads WA roadworks program
14.09.2022	Meeting with Works Manager over roads planning and plant replacement progress. Main Roads WA roadworks program
15.09.2022	Main Roads WA Regional Road Subgroup Meeting at Murchison. Main Roads WA roadworks program
16.09.2022	Agenda Work Main Roads WA roadworks program
17.09.2022 to 18.09.2022	Agenda Work
19.09.2022	TOIL

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision		
Moved: Cr	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at.