



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 Friday **28 February 2025**, 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 12 noon

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 (Remote via Video)
Cr G Mead

Staff

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Lisa Keen – Senior Executive Manager DCEO
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apologies

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 13 December 2024

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 13 December 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 13 December 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cr R Foulkes Taylor & Cr E Foulkes Taylor – Items 21.1 & 21.2 – financial interest

Cr A Whitmarsh – Item 18.2 – financial interest

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 A Whitmarsh

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 27 March 2025

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

10 URGENT BUSINESS

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply and Construct Project Tender

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

- 17.1.1 Account Listings Paid since the last list was presented to Council
- 18.4.2 Murchison Polocrosse Constitution
- 18.4.3 Murchison Polocrosse 2024 Profit & Loss.
- 18.4.4 Murchison Polocrosse Profit & Loss Review
- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project Tender.

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Chris Brayton – CSIRO

Tender for Boolardy Homestead airstrip is now available on AusTender website. There is an email address listed in the tender documents to direct any queries to. Hoping that construction will begin in May. The contract package has been divided into multiple sections in an effort to encourage local contractors to bid for some of the works.

The fibre optic project is ongoing, Shire should have recently received land access notice for both Pia and the Settlement from AARNet. There have been a few delays but that is acceptable if it means the job is being done correctly. TDK Civil due to mobilise second week of March to complete the retic work, once that is complete the final connection from pits to houses will go ahead.

Some major civil works associated with the SKAO project will begin winding down around May.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

Cr Emma and I attended an afternoon tea reception with the Governor General Sam Mostyn in Geraldton on 17th February.

Emma received her invitation as a MWDC Board member earlier last week but I think I was a bit of an afterthought as my invitation came through on Friday. I was invited as the Murchison Country Zone and Murchison Shire President. I felt for the CGG Crew though, as they were only given about six days notice that the GG was going to visit and they were expected to get everything organised straight away.

The reception had a pretty positive tone. CGG Mayor Jerry Clune welcomed everyone (about 40 odd guests and around 15 CGG and Governor General support staff) and then went on to say plenty of positive things about Geraldton and surrounds.

The Governor spoke and was generous in her thanking for their service, the many volunteers present along with some paid representatives. These included Local Govt reps, Scouts, Military, Emergency services, Politicians - Member for Gtn Lara Dalton and member for Durack Melissa Price, plus a few other Australia Day award recipients While admitting local bias, when I spoke with the GG I said that Geraldton and surrounds do have some decent attractions but the really interesting country began when you headed a bit further east to where the Mulga trees started.

A few of our regions regular issues such as population decline, service provision, the importance of keeping outback areas economically healthy and populated were touched on but not explored in any detail as time was a bit short.

While having no definitive outcomes, I felt the reception was worth attending and I found the most constructive aspect being discussions had with other Council reps from around our Midwest region.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Attended reception with Governor General Sam Mostyn in Geraldton as above, as well as attending two Murchison Camp Oven Muster meetings on the 28th January and 25th February. Things are ticking along well in relation to planning and a thank you to all that are involved. The Midwest Development Commission is without a chair and deputy chair and as the government is in caretaker mode no nominations will be accepted until after the election.

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15.1 Audit Committee

File: 2.2
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 24 February 2025
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit Committee Meeting Recommendations

Matter for Consideration

Amongst other things one of the objectives of the Audit Committee is to receive the Annual Compliance Return for the period 1 January to 31 December in each that is presented to the Audit Committee for review. The Audit Committee is to report to the Council the results of that review. The Compliance Audit Return is to then be adopted by Council and the certified copy is to be sent to the Director General of the Department of Local Government & Communities by 31 March of the following year.

A copy of the Audit Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments for the meeting on 28 February 2025 including the Compliance Audit Return was separately circulated to all councillors.

Committee Recommendations

To be provided to Council following deliberations of the Audit Committee Meeting

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Recommendations

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That the Audit Committee

- 1 reports to the 28 February 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council that the Compliance Audit Return 2024 has been completed and;
- 2 recommends that Council adopt the Compliance Audit Return 2024 as presented.

Carried **For** 3 **Against** 0

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead **Seconded: Cr** Q Fowler

That Council accept the Audit Committee Recommendations and adopt the Compliance Audit Return 2024 as presented to the Audit Committee Meeting held on 28 February 2025

Carried **For** 6 **Against** 0

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Bill Boehm Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date 24 February 2025
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The Construction crew returned after the Christmas break and got stuck into the Mulga Crescent sheeting job, put in a second culvert and got the floodway prepped and ready for the cement stabilization. The man-made moat has also had several loads of dirt dumped into it in an attempt to promote water flow back into the patch of dead bush south-east of the taxi way with an earth bund across the moat to act as a block. This may have to be strengthened at some point. They then headed off down the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. to finish in the floodways and do a tidy up of works before the Stabilization crew arrive. Final shaping and trimming will take place just prior to sealing.

Maintenance

Unfortunately, we have been back to one maintenance grader for the last month or so with young Liam heading off to Queensland. On completion of the stabilizing job Jamie Hodder will move to the maintenance crew from the construction crew and be replaced by his son Andrew, who started on Monday 24.02.2025. Lou has pressed on by himself, completing Beringarra Byro Rd. Mt. Gould Rd. and Beringarra Cue Rd. He should be heading down the Mileura Nookawarra Rd by the time Council meets.

Stabilisation

SPA should commence these works in the first week of March, tentatively it looks like March 3 at this stage.

Sealing

Bitutek are scheduled to start the sealing works at the beginning of April. I am still waiting for a final date.

Freight Contract

The current contract comes to an end at the end of June 2025. There is an option to extend by mutual agreement for an additional two years. We have been happy with the current contactor performance and have therefore approached them to ascertain whether they wish to take up this option to extend the contract. They have indicated that they will respond in writing in the near future. Once this outcome is known we can then plan ahead, review options and potentially avoid last-minute negotiations to keep the service going if they decide not to continue.

SKA Works

These continue to progress with both Squires Resources and Walladar currently involved in re-sheet works as well as considerable maintenance that has occurred since the beginning of the year. Some moisture from above would certainly assist with the maintenance regime.

Beringarra Pindar Rd

Rowe Contractors have continued with the re-sheet and drainage works north of the Bumbinyoo flat through the white sandy section. My thanks to Justin and his crew for their perseverance, it certainly was not one of the plumb jobs going around and the very hot weather we experienced in the first half of February did not help. This job should be completed shortly after Council meets.

MRWA, CGG Meeting

I attended a meeting with MRWA, CGG, and Matt Barns from Greenfield with the CEO on remote via Teams. The purpose of the meeting was to get some traction and agreement on the scope of works along the 28km unsealed section now under our maintenance regime. For the first time I felt that we had had a win. The two

gentlemen from the City were positive and supportive and in agreement with all proposals put forward by CEO Bill and myself. Leon Wilson from MRWA is very aware that our money is going to run out in the not-too-distant future and appears to be confident that this will be topped up. I will be meeting the men from the City as well as Matt Barns on site for a final look and then hopefully it will be all go from there. This will hopefully happen in the next fortnight or so. All in all I feel considerably more confident and I thank the CGG for their warm and positive response.

Swimming Pool & Settlement

Works are ongoing and at times sporadic. We are waiting for fencing and tiling to commence, Tony from WFBD has been up again, Hosken Electrical have spent time sorting the earthing issues and Adam, Gary and Mike are getting on top of the maintenance and associated tasks.

Apart from being a construction site at the moment, I think the Settlement is looking pretty good. My thanks to the Settlement crew for the effort they have put in since the new year and dealing with the run of hot weather we have experienced.

Apology

I will unfortunately be away for Council meeting, should there be any questions arising out of this report please call me and I will attempt to answer.

Infrastructure Development Fund Works **

Works associated with Council's Agreement with the State Government for \$1,088,339 in funding assistance for water and electricity infrastructure upgrade works within the Settlement to support the construction of 5 additional key worker dwellings has steadily progressed, This includes complementary works associated with the redevelopment of the Roadhouse and sourcing suitable residential accommodation units.

This month sees consideration of the following tenders

- Murchison Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project
- Murchison Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project

Given the scale and potential complexity of each project as much time as possible was provided to potential tenderers as well as consultants engaged to evaluate responses. At the time of preparing the agenda the evaluation reports have not been received and will be provided as soon as possible. Depending on the responses received and evaluation, it may be that a remote Special Meeting will be required.

Recommendation

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Councillor Comments

Cr E Foulkes Taylor would like to congratulate Justin Rowe and crew for their work on Beringarra Pindar Road by Tallering Station, outstanding job.

Cr Q Fowler noted that there are quite a few signs around the Shire that need replacement or repair.

Cr Q Fowler expressed concerns with the surface of the splashpad – noted it is quite abrasive and will cause injury if users fall over. Bec Fogarty to communicate with Water Features by Design on rectification options.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor **Seconded: Cr** A Whitmarsh

That Council resolve that the Works Report be noted.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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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: 24 February 2024
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2024 and January 2025
(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

- 1 That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2024 and January 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2024 and January 2025 and 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

Simple Majority

1 Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2024 & January 2025 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.17pm – Chris Brayton left the meeting

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr A Whitmarsh

That the Council move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

6

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.20pm – Chris Brayton returned to the room

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

Cr E Foulkes Taylor requested that in regards to bounty payments, the property that the animal has been destroyed on is included on the payment listing.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for December 2024 & January 2025 and that the accounts since the last report to Council, as provided to Councillors be recorded in the minutes as being presented to Council.

Carried

For

6

Against

0

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 December 2024

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 24 February 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report December 2024

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. Specific comments have been include in the latest January 2025 Report.

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 December 2024 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 December 2024 as attached.

Carried	For	6	Against	0
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17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 January 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 24 February 2025
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report January 2025

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.

Few points to note.

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity
 - a Closing Surplus \$3,552,530 compared to Budget of \$5,120,872. The key variances are outlined in Note 2.
 - b Opening Surplus \$443,925 compared to Budget of \$1,768,357. This is now the final audited balance.
- 2 Note 2 provides explanations of Material Variances.
 - a Rates - \$85K below budget – interim rating for UV Prospecting and Exploration
 - b Capital Grants – main variance relates to MRWA – SKA Roads which is \$1.2M below YTD budget see Note 12 for detail
 - c Employee Costs \$95K above budget – mainly due to above budget year to date employee overhead costs.
 - d Other variances are largely the same items as reported in the November report presented at December 24 Council Meeting
- 3 Note 4 – Total cash balances \$9,974,850, \$6,012,466 unrestricted and \$3,962,385 restricted reserves.
- 4 Note 6 – Rates outstanding \$135,715
- 5 Note 9 Capital expenditure
 - a Total roads \$981,406 YTD expenditure
 - b Caravan Park Pool \$625,413 YTD expenditure
 - c Community Splash Pool \$335,228 YTD expenditure

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 January 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Further update at the Meeting

Travis advised that main points are already contained within the agenda items.

Travis received a query from Cr E Foulkes Taylor via email yesterday regarding the SKA operating and capital grants. He explained that

- ~ the timing of grant revenue is outlined in note 12, \$401,000 recognised in operating grants and \$1.2m in capital grants was invoiced in September and payment has been received.
- ~ As of 30/6/24 there was a contract liability of \$560,000 – as per the accounting standards this is income received in the 23/24FY that has not yet been spent.
- ~ Total amount carried forward plus the income invoiced in September totals \$2,174,000 and expenses to January total \$2,102,000- a difference of \$72,000.
- ~ Through the budget review process there will be some adjustments made particularly if invoices have been incorrectly coded.

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	A Whitmarsh	Seconded: Cr	G Mead	
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 January 2025 as attached.				
Carried		For	6	Against 0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 24 February 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report February Council Meeting

Background

This report seeks to inform the Shire of the works undertaken in relation to references to the relevant objectives and strategies contained within the Community Strategic Plan, in accordance with the following Vision Statement.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives & Strategies	<i>Description</i>

Murchison Camp Oven Muster

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>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Providing information on services (funding opportunities, Grant processes etc.).</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Regional collaboration where possible;</i> <i>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>

The first working group meeting occurred on January 28th where the overall format of the event and headline activities were fleshed out.

2025 Event Format

Friday 1st August

Will begin with a presentation from a local pastoralist (Potentially Josh from Murgoo with a Sheep Dog demonstration) followed by the first camp oven cooking demo of the weekend by a guest presenter. From 5pm onwards a picnic dinner organised by the working group at Errabiddy Bluff in the style of an Argentinian Asado supported with Stargazing activities. Patrons will be encouraged to bring their own chair and picnic blanket.

Saturday

A selection of drop in style activities will be happening from 10am to 3pm these include Spinning flower making, wood working, Murchison Arts Council pop up shop and botanic dying workshops. Set time activities will also occur in this time period and they will include guided botanic walks, camp oven smoko competition hosted by our guest presenter, bush survival skills demonstration and another camp oven cooking demonstration.

Food options will be provided and sold out of the sports club kitchen by the community and supported with a food van that can also provide coffee.

Saturday Afternoon

As per 2024 this will be camp oven cooking time with the addition of the billy boiling competition and family games

Saturday Evening

The highlight of the event the communal camp oven long table dinner will be followed up by line dancing on an area created in the dinner area followed up by music provided by a band, DJ or playlist.

Behind the scenes we are working with the Roadhouse crew on integrating the caravan park site bookings with the ticket sale platform.

Tourism

Economic Objective 1 To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.
Tourism Development To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.

Tourism Masterplan

Three suppliers responded to the request for quote, only two covered all aspects of the scope provided with Identity Perth being engaged.

The proposed plans include the creation of a Tourism masterplan that develops a strong, clear and cohesive brand and marketing story with an identity that is strong and authentic, positioning the Shire of Murchison as a region with a rich history and cultural heritage. Moving away from cookie-cutter approaches to develop a broader vision and perspective that encompasses Murchison's unique selling points. The package of work will allow for the consistent application of a single brand identity to as many outputs as possible to avoid confusion, complication and mistaken identity. In essence, creating familiarity no matter where a tourist may encounter it's experiences with Murchison Shire.

The branding, strategy and outputs will be tailored to address the Shires established tourism offerings. Designed to appeal to high-value tourism markets, including millennials, grey nomads and cultural travellers. Be agile and adapt across digital platforms, print media and signage.

Partner News

Australia's Golden Outback Gascoyne Murchison DeTour campaign has kicked off and has already experienced more traffic online than last years campaign. You can view the campaign here [DeTour to the Gascoyne Murchison | Australia's Golden Outback](#) The Camp Oven Muster has been incorporated into the 'home page' and Murchison Settlement has its own page .

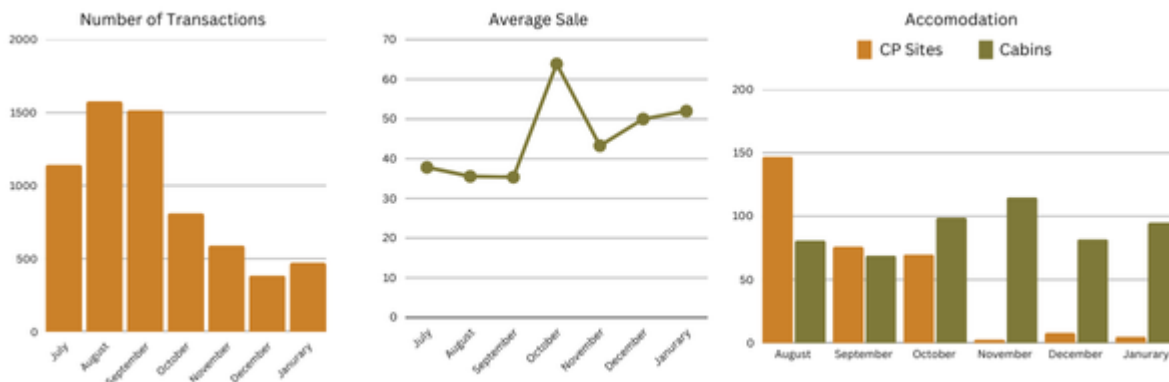
Murchison Geo Region have purchased 2 tickets to the Murchison Camp Oven Muster to provide a prize for the AGO Gascoyne Murchison detour campaign giveaway that is taking place from 3rd March – 31 March.

Roadhouse Update

Shire of Murchison welcomed Gracie and Gage as the new Roadhouse Managers. Gracie and Gage have been traveling Australia full-time managing caravan parks as they go for the last four years. Anne and Ambrose

complete the current Roadhouse team and will be with us until June before they are on their way to discovering more of Australia. The Roadhouse has recently refreshed the menu. It is great to see an infusion of new ideas.

We continue to process and understand the data from our new systems and when the full year of usage comes about in August we will have our first 12 month overview.



Local Loyalty Scheme

The Local Loyalty Scheme has been released online through the monologue. We look forward to seeing and processing applications as they arrive.

We have received 3 applications and are working on a system to understand the amount of times used.

Mid West Creative Ecology Summit 2025

Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

- Regional collaboration where possible;*
- Detailed and professional administration;*
- High levels of accountability;*
- Compliance with statutory requirements;*
- High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;*
- Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;*
- Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.*

Regional Collaboration

Work collaboratively with neighbouring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.

Regional Arts WA Mid-West Development Commission Conference

On Thursday the 6th of February Regional Arts WA partnered with the Mid West Development Commission to deliver a full-day conference at the Queens Theatre in Geraldton. The program explored relationships, values and processes that sustain creativity, innovation and cultural expression.

I particularly enjoyed a presentation called Creative Ecologies - Making More with a Metaphor by Dr Vahri McKenzie and Dr Christine Scoggin. The presentation focused on natural animal and environmental-based ecologies however I found it related well to the Shire. The importance of now, as it cannot be re-created and the importance of the current generation taking action to preserve this moment for future generations. Further to this, the resilience of the whole system depends on there being rich diversity of individual elements and as this evolves the systemic gap that can be created when part of the a system disappears. However that systemic gap can be filled by the adaption of other parts of the system.

Sitting with Margy the Community Development Officer for Mt Magnet we discussed how we can create bridges between the metro and regional locations for information sharing and the creation and attraction of arts opportunities not only from a community development standpoint but activating arts-based tourism.

In the panel discussion, panellists spoke about the importance of cultivating Critical Hope. Critical hope reflects the ability to realistically assess one's environment through a lens of equity and justice while also envisioning the possibility of a better future. To do this power needs to be shared, there needs to be awareness of the past to understand the present and intergroup dialogue should be embraced as this allows individuals to gain the necessary knowledge, awareness and skills for leadership development through building critical connections with one another that sustain leadership efforts in the face of struggle.

During the conference I was able to touch base again with Regional Arts WA and Art on the move and remind them that we are here and open to future opportunities. We met with David who runs the North Midlands Project and could also be a potential arts partner going forward.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Interpretive Centre	<i>Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 4,315 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$431.50 going back to community initiatives. This does not take into account all the container bags that have been delivered by residents that have a Containers for Change member number other than the Shires. Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program and changing the bin you put your rubbish in.

Community Garden

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>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in Murchison</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</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 by:</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

Over the Christmas and New Year break there has been a transformation in the community garden with over 4 tonnes of soil conditioner and mulch being added to the ground and wicking beds using permaculture practices. The wicking beds have been planted out with seed and were just waiting for the seeds to pop their heads out and grow thanks to the Department of Communities funding that has allowed to create a seed bank. The ground beds are currently a very rich mix and will be best left for a month before planting perfect timing for winter crops.

2025 Significant Event Opportunity – Box Rally

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 by: Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required. Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible;</i>
Regional Collaboration	<i>Work collaboratively with neighboring shires, state and federal government and private enterprise to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Shire's scarce resources.</i>

No update to report.

Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible; Detailed and professional administration; High levels of accountability; Compliance with statutory requirements; High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances; Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation; Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
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Strategies

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari	<i>Increase communication between the Council and all sectors of the Community (both ways).</i>
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Email Communications

- ~ 4 Gascoyne Pastoral Workshop, Mid week mail run changes, Notice of Ordinary Council Meeting dates 2025, Notice of Annual Meeting of the Electors 2025
- ~ 13 Road Condition Report
- ~ 2 Tender Notifications RFT1-2024-2025, RFT2 2025

Social Media Communications

The Shire continues to share developments within the settlement and Shire through Facebook. This month has been used to present tourism within the shire in a positive light. Sharing the latest drop of photo and video from The Murchison Camp oven Muster held in August.

Mail Communications

None

Website

Currently getting a new roads reports system that will feature a live map, updated event calendar and payment gateway for events.

Monologue

The next Monologue will be released post the February Council Meeting.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act 1995.

Sustainability Implications

Environmental There are no known significant environmental considerations.
Economic There are no known significant economic considerations.
Social There are no known significant social considerations.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed above for each item.

Recommendation

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	A Whitmarsh	
That Council note the Community Development Progress Report				
Carried		For	6	Against 0

18.2 Murchison Polocrosse Request

File:	11.3
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	13 December 2024
Attachments:	18.4.1 Murchison Polocrosse Request 18.4.2 Murchison Polocrosse Constitution (Elected Members Only) 18.4.3 Murchison Polocrosse 2024 Profit & Loss. (Elected Members Only) 18.4.4 Murchison Polocrosse Profit & Loss Review. (Elected Members Only) 18.4.5 Murchison Polocrosse Request Review

Note this item was presented to on the day of the December 2024 Council Meeting but was not able to be considered as Urgent Business given the late notice of the information provided at the time and was therefore held over till the next meeting of Council in 2025.

Matter for Consideration

Letter from the Murchison Polocrosse Association regarding arrangements for the running of the annual Murchison Polocrosse Event in 2025 as a follow up to Council's correspondence of 28 October 2024.

Background

At the March 2024 and April 2024 Council Meetings the subject of the fees, charges and operating arrangements for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event was discussed by Council. As a result, the Polocrosse Club were advised as follows.

- I That following the conclusion of the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event that the event and operations be reviewed in conjunction with the Murchison Polocrosse Club and local stakeholders, and that the Club be so advised.
- II That the Murchison Polocrosse Club be advised that the current adopted Caravan Park fees of \$35 for a powered site and \$25 for an unpowered site on the grass areas will apply and that patrons are required to book into the caravan park prior to occupying the sites.
- III That Council request a donation of \$1,000 from the Murchison Polocrosse Club for use of the Council facilities for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event.
- IV That the Murchison Polocrosse Club be advised that in relation to the Shire's support for the 2024 Murchison Polocrosse Event, that whilst on ground support by Works and Services Staff will be provided, that the Polocrosse Club will be required to undertake responsibilities for the cleaning, stocking and restocking consumables for the Polocrosse Ablutions prior to, during and after the event, and for the cleaning and restocking consumables for the Sports Club Ablutions during and after the event.

At the October Council Meeting the matter was further considered with the following resolutions carried.

That in relation to the Polocrosse Events that the Murchison Polocrosse Club be

- 2 requested to provide a copy of their Club's Constitution
- 3 advised that the adopted hire fees associated with use of the Community Centre will apply for future events.
- 4 advised that the consumption of alcohol from the Community Centre is the responsibility of the Murchison Sports Club
- 5 advised that the Shire's support for future event will continue with ground support by Works and Services Staff with the Polocrosse Club required to undertake responsibilities for the cleaning, stocking and restocking consumables for the Polocrosse Ablutions prior to, during and after the event, and for the cleaning and restocking consumables for the Sports Club Ablutions during and after the event
- 6 advised that the applicable adopted daily fees for the Caravan Park for powered sites, unpowered grass sites and unpowered bush camping sites will apply and that patrons are required to book into the caravan park prior to occupying the sites.

On 28 October 2024 the Murchison Polocrosse Club were advised of the Council's decisions

Request

A copy of the correspondence from the Murchison Polocrosse which was opened the day prior to the December Council Meeting, which includes a copy of the Clubs Constitution and Profit and Loss for 2024 is attached

Comment

In review of the request, an outline response to the questions raised by the Club is attached. This forms part of the recommendations below.

Also attached is simple review of the financial information provided by the Club as part of their correspondence and also received previously received from a representative of the Club. As indicated above the Clubs Constitution and Financial Information are for Elected Members Only.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Plan as detailed below.

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Strategies	
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Economic Development	<i>Retain existing industries and encourage the establishment of new industries to broaden the region's economic base through the provision of residential and industrial land / buildings in 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 by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i> <i>Supporting and maintaining social infrastructure (i.e. Parks, Gardens, Cemetery) and support those groups who use them.</i>
Strategies	
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>
Refurbishment of Community Centre	<i>The Community Centre is a key building within the Murchison Settlement. The Centre was built in the 1980's and has maintained since this time, however is due to refurbishment.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:</i> <i>Detailed and professional administration;</i> <i>High levels of accountability;</i> <i>Compliance with statutory requirements;</i> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>
Financial Planning and Management	<i>To responsibly manage Council's financial resources to ensure optimum value for money and sustainable asset management.</i>
Strategic Planning	<i>Ongoing reviews of the Community Strategic Plan.</i>
Asset Management	<i>Meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner for present and future residents.</i>

Consultation

Bec Fogarty (Community Officer), William Herold (Works Manager), Lisa Keen (Executive Manager DCEO).

Recommendation

That in relation to correspondence received from the Murchison Polocrosse Association regarding arrangements for the running of the Annual Murchison Polocrosse Event in 2025 that Council resolves as follows.

- 1 That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the Local Government Act 1995 that attachments 18.4.2, 18.4.3 and 18.4.4 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachments 18.4.2, 18.4.3 and 18.4.4
- 3 That the Meeting move out of behind closed doors
- 4 That Council note the correspondence received from the Murchison Polocrosse Association regarding arrangements for the running of the annual Murchison Polocrosse Event in 2025 and responds in line with the Murchison Polocrosse Request Review Document as outlined in Attachment 18.4.5

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

1 Item to be Discussed behind closed doors

Cr A Whitmarsh and C Brayton left the meeting at 12.30pm

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b) & (e) of the Local Government Act 1995 that attachments 18.4.2, 18.4.3 and 18.4.4 be discussed behind closed doors

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.30pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Meeting move out from behind closed doors

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.35pm.

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Items 18.4.2, 18.4.3 and 18.4.4

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council receive and note attachments 18.4.2, 18.4.3 and 18.4.4

Carried

For

5

Against

0

4 Recommendation 4

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes Taylor

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the correspondence received from the Murchison Polocrosse Association regarding arrangements for the running of the annual Murchison Polocrosse Event in 2025 and responds in line with the Murchison Polocrosse Request Review Document as outlined in Attachment 18.4.5

Carried

For 5

Against 0

Cr A Whitmarsh and C Brayton returned to the meeting at 12.36pm.

19 ADMINISTRATION

Nil

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 24 February 2024

Attachments: Nil

General

The calendar year started off productively with various activities undertaken within the context of an updated Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Framework in which is being developed and in the ordinary course of events would be available for discussion and Council feedback in February 2025.

Unfortunately in mid-January I have had to attend to and am still attending to some significant personal issues, some joyous but otherwise not so which necessitate me working remote from the Office. During this time I have been in regular dialogue with The Shire President and Senior Staff such the overall operation is running on track, albeit within a very busy time. My partner and now wife Kaye and families are very appreciative of the support.

Meanwhile the following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
12.12.2024	Administration Work. Polocrosse Work
13.12.2024	Agenda Work. Attend Audit Committee and Council Meetings. Council Meeting and Audit Committee Minutes
14.12.2024	Council Minutes and follow up actions. General Administration Work.
16.12.2024	TOIL. Administration emails General Work
17.12.2024	TOIL. Administration emails General Work. Council Minutes & follow up actions
18.12.2024	Annual Leave. Administration Emails and Strategy work
19.12.2024	Annual Leave. Flood Event Work. Submit DFES Preliminary Flood Notification
20.12.2024	Annual Leave. Flood Event Work
23.12.2024 to 24.12.2024	Annual Leave
25.12.2024	Christmas Day Public Holiday
26.12.2024	Boxing Day Public Holiday
27.12.2024 to 31.12.2024	Annual Leave
1.01.2025	Australia Day Public Holiday
2.01.2025 to 3.01.2025	TOIL
6.01.2025	Water Treatment and Power Supply Tender Work. Flood damage follow up. Arrange floodway surveys. Catch up and briefing with Community Officer.
7.01.2025	Water Treatment Tender Work. Strategy Preparation Work. Catch up with new roadhouse managers and casuals
8.01.2025	Senior Management Team Meeting. Power tender upgrade work. Administration
9.01.2025	Power and water tender upgrade work. Touch base with Tony from WFBD at Pool Splashpad Site and Roadhouse. Administration. Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work
10.01.2025	Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work . Catch up with Works Manager & Michael. Water tender upgrade work
11.01.2025 to 12.01.2025	Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work
13.01.2025	Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work. On site meeting with Community Officer & Mechanic

Date	Activity
14.01.2025	Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work. Meeting with Community Officer & Mechanic. On site inspection at Airport Entrance with Works Manager
15.01.2025	Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Work. Staff Meeting at Roadhouse TOIL
16.01.2025	General Administration. Staff Meeting Minutes. TOIL
17.01.2025	General Administration in RFT Work TOIL
20.01.2025 to 23.01.2025	Annual Leave
24.01.2025	General Administration Telephone catch ups. TOIL
27.01.2025	Australia Day Public Holiday
28.01.2025	General Administration Telephone catch ups. TOIL
29.01.2025 to 30.01.2025	Grants Commission Return. General Administration. TOIL
31.01.2025	General Administration. TOIL
3.02.2025	General Administration. Fuel Review . Touch base with Works Manager & Community Officer TOIL
4.02.2025 to 07.02.2025	General Administration Annual Leave
10.02.2025	Meeting with UDLA in Fremantle. Catch up via phone with Works Manager. Emails Administration. TOIL
11.02.2025	Annual Leave
12.02.2025	Attend WALGA Webinar Superannuation for Elected Members. Personal Leave
13.02.2025 to 14.02.2025	Administration & Emails. TOIL. Personal Leave
17.02.2025	Attend MRWA CGG Meeting on Carn-Mul Road with Works Manager via teams. Council Agenda Work. Catch up with Community Officer via phone. Administration & Emails TOIL
18.02.2025	Council Agenda Work. Catch up with Community Officer via phone. Administration & Emails. Personal Leave
19.02.2025	Council & Audit Committee Agenda Work. Catch up with Community Officer via phone. Administration & Emails. Personal Leave
20.02.2025	Council & Audit Committee Agenda Work. Catch up with Executive Manager DCEO via phone. Administration & Emails. Personal Leave
21.02.2025	Council Electors Meeting & Audit Committee Agenda Work. Catch up with Works Manager via phone. Administration & Emails. Personal Leave
23.02.2025	Council Electors Meeting & Audit Committee Agenda Work
24.02.2025 to 25.02.2025	Council Agenda Work . TOIL. Personal Leave

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Councillors Comments

Cr E Foulkes Taylor wanted to congratulate Bill and Kaye on their marriage and the entire council expressed best wishes to Kaye

Council Decision

Moved: Cr A Whitmarsh **Seconded: Cr** G Mead

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Carried **For** 6 **Against** 0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Other Items to be Discussed behind closed doors

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project Tender.

Recommendation

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b)(c)(d) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the following matters be discussed behind closed doors

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply and Construct Project Tender

Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor left the meeting at 12.39pm

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That that pursuant to LGA s5.23(2)(b)(c)(d) & (e) of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the following matters be discussed behind closed doors

- 21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender
- 21.2 Settlement Power Supply and Construct Project Tender

Carried	For	4	Against	0
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The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.39pm.

Motion to open the meeting to the public

Recommendation

That the meeting come from behind closed doors

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the meeting come from behind closed doors

Carried	For	4	Against	0
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The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.47pm. Cr R Foulkes Taylor and Cr E Foulkes Taylor returned to the meeting.

Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting

21.1 Settlement Water Treatment Design Supply Construct & Install Project Tender

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	G Mead	
That Council defer the decision to award RFT1 2024-25 to a later date in order to further investigate ongoing service and maintenance costs so as to be able to fully evaluate the tender.				
Carried		For	4	Against 0

21.2 Settlement Power Supply Upgrade and Construct Project Tender.

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	M Fowler	
That the Shire to enter into negotiations to incorporate the preferred tenderer as outlined in the attached Tender Evaluation Report, into the final Murchison Settlement Power Supply Upgrade Supply and Construct Project.				
Carried		For	4	Against 0

Suggestion that both decisions for 21.1 and 21.2 are made at a special meeting to be called at a later date.

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The President called Sydney Fogarty into the chambers and thanked her for carrying out some good admin work for the Shire during the past year or so. Additionally, he wished her well for future endeavours.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.50pm

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 27 March 2025	
Signed.....	Presiding Officer