

CITY OF ARMADALE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2002

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON THURSDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2002 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Cr L Reynolds JP presided:	Westfield Ward
Deputy Mayor, Cr J H Munn JP CMC	West Armadale Ward
Cr J Knezevich	West Armadale Ward
Cr R R Fletcher	Armadale Ward
Cr F R Green	Armadale Ward
Cr V L Clowes-Hollins	Kelmscott Ward
Cr J Everts	Seville Ward
Cr J D Cumming	Seville Ward
Cr D L Hopper JP	Roleystone Ward
Cr R C Stubbs AM	Roleystone Ward
Cr J A Stewart	Westfield Ward
Cr A L Cominelli JP	Forrest Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr R S Tame	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A F Maxwell	Executive Director Corporate Services
Mr J H A Adderley	Executive Director Development Services
Mr A Bruce	Executive Director Technical Services
Mr I Macrae	Executive Director Development Services
Mr C Askew	Director Community Services
Mrs S D'Souza	CEO's Executive Assistant

Public: 12

His Worship the Mayor, Cr Linton Reynolds, welcomed those in attendance to the 2001-2002 Annual General Meeting of Electors. He advised that the proceedings were being recorded and requested that people state their name and address prior to addressing the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cr Hodges and Cr Zelones

2 BUSINESS OF MEETING

2.1 PRESENTING & RECEIVING THE 2001-2002 ANNUAL REPORT

2.1.1 2001-02 Annual Financial Report

It was noted that some residents in the Kelmscott area did not receive their Annual Report with the 12 November edition of the Comment News. The Mayor advised that the matter will be investigated.

MOVED Mr Holton that the 2001-2002 Annual Financial Report be received.

SECONDED Mr Clay

CARRIED

2.1.2 Auditor's Report

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr R S Tame, read aloud the Auditor's Report.

MOVED Mr Holton that the Auditor's Report on the 2001-2002 Annual Financial Report be received.

CARRIED

2.1.3 2001-02 Annual Report (Remaining Parts)

Mayor Reynolds read aloud his Report, as printed in the Annual Report.

MOVED Mr Holton that the 2001-2002 Annual Report be received.

SECONDED Mr Clay

CARRIED

2.2 GENERAL BUSINESS

2.2.1 Questions of which prior notice has been given

Mr Dave Foster, 248 Albany Highway, Bedfordale

Lions Park

Q1. Will the bridge that has been removed which crossed the Neerigen Brook be replaced? If so when?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

On the 28 July 2002 the Bridge in Lions Park was found to be severely damaged by white ants and timber rot. The bridge was subsequently closed to the public. A further inspection was carried out on 29 July 2002 with the bridge being found to be in a irreparable condition and consequently was removed.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the replacement cost of the bridge could be in the order of \$30,000.

It is not expected that the bridge will be replaced in the near future unless there proves to be a justifiable demand for the footbridge.

This is the first query about the bridge.

Q2. Will the Rubbish Bin which has been taken away be replaced? If so when?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

The rubbish bin will be replaced, within 2 – 3 weeks as new bins have been ordered.

Reserve between Albany Highway and Bedfordale Hill along the Neerigen Brook

Q3. Will the Reserve be given a name? If so when?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

There has been no official request to name the reserve at this time.

If it was to be named this would require advertising to surrounding landowners and the general community seeking support for the proposed name, resolution of Council to approach the Geographic Names Committee with the name, outlining the level of community support, and seeking the Committee's approval of such.

Q4. When asked to send a letter to surrounding landowners to ask them to stop harassing reserve users Mr Tame said 48 letters would cost too much. Could this perhaps be budgeted for in the near future?

Q5. Will the illegal fences stopping people using the reserve be removed? If so when?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

Mr Tame did not say “48 letters would cost too much” or a number of other comments attributed to the CEO by Mr Foster in letters to the Ombudsman after their meeting. However, a letter to all landholders abutting the reserve setting out the requirements of our Local Laws on parks and any other relevant matters relating to this reserve are scheduled to be sent early in December 2002. This correspondence will not necessarily lead to removal of all fences and structures, but that they be managed to Council’s satisfaction.

Q6. Will the creek be redirected where it has been altered to landscape a garden?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

A site survey is to be undertaken following letters to landholders to determine boundary locations along this part of the Neerigen Brook. Specific matters such as creek diversion as a result of landscaping will be evaluated once the field survey is completed along with any other specific issues.

Q7. Will the rubbish, which includes a lot of unused piping for the creek be removed? If so when?

Q8. Will the plants and trees which have been planted to stop people getting on to and moving about the reserve be removed? If so when?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

The matters relating to reserve maintenance, rubbish removal etc. will need to be assessed for future budgeting of the overall management of this reserve over the coming years – no current funds for any immediate work of this nature. It is intended that minimal access be provided in the future subject to all considerations, with particular attention to public safety and liability and funding priorities..

Advice provided from the Ombudsman’s Office which may be of assistance is available.

Q9. When no satisfaction is being gained from numerous complaints to the front desk and ranger, can access to Mr Tame be easier?

Response by the CEO, Mr Tame:

Any person or organization undertaking business with the City of Armadale has the right to seek access to the CEO. These include the City's 54,000 residents, business groups, Government Departments, Members of Parliament, professional bodies etc.

Mr Foster has the same right.

An individual does **not** have the right to disadvantage those others seeking the CEO's time, or to stipulate the date, time of his choosing and who else may attend.

His complaints in this regard have been heard and addressed by the Ombudsman, who has closed the file.

2.2.2 Questions received from the Floor

Mr N Towle – 6 Wyee Place, Armadale

Question: With regard to the lawn mowing contractors engaged by Council to cut the grass in reserves, particularly the one in Wyee Place. Is the contractor required to remove the clippings or leave them? Residents are faced with increased number of weeds blowing across from these reserves.

Response: The Mayor advised that the lawn mowing contractors are just commencing their second round of mowing and it was noticed that after the last round of mowing there was quite lengthy grass which was left on the ground after that cut. The contract does not require them to remove the cut grass. The difficulty being faced is that if there is a lengthy growth in-between mows then the material left behind does not break down very easily into the soil. It is inevitable that in the months of October/November both road reserves and parks are at its worst and Mr Lanternier, Manager Parks & Gardening Facilities will be considering as to what can be done in future budgets to overcome that.

Mr D Cox – 38 Sixth Road, Armadale

Question: Would like to compliment the Council in putting down footpaths on Sixth Road which is used considerably by school children and people accessing the railway station. However, the job was not quite finished up by putting soil against the kerbing and driveways were not filled back in after the work was completed.

Response: The Mayor advised that Technical Services will investigate the footpaths on Sixth Road to ensure that soil is put on the inside edge of the constructed footpaths and those driveways that have not been filled back will also be finished.

Question: The rubbish bins on Jull Street are not being emptied on a regular basis.

Response: The rubbish bins on Jull Street are cleared twice a week. However, Council is conscious that this needs to be done more often and it is a question of funding. This will be considered in the next budget along with a number of other issues associated with the appearance of the city centre.

Mr Holton - 13 Wandoo Street, Mt Nasura

Question: When accessing Council's website yesterday, it was noted that the agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting is not yet available. Is this not normally available to the public before the Council meeting?

Response: The Mayor advised that Council agendas are made available to the public at 12 Noon on the Friday preceding a Monday Council meeting and are posted on the internet on that day.

Mr D Burns – 25K Barellan Court, Armadale

Question: As a Committee member on the strata, would like to express thanks to Council's building, parks & gardens, and rates departments for their help and assistance. With regard to the unruly behaviour on Gwynne Park where the units have been devalued due to anti-social behaviour, is Council able to assist in this matter?

Response: The Mayor advised that this matter will be drawn to the attention of the local police.

Mr Cox – 38 Sixth Road, Armadale

Question: In regard to unclean drainage sump holes in Jull Street. Jull Street is the hub of this town and the drainage holes are overflowing with leaves as the machines cannot get into those corners but these can easily be removed with a rake/broom.

Response: The Mayor thanked Mr Cox for bringing the matter to Council's attention and as mentioned earlier in the meeting Council is looking into the appearance of the city centre precinct and this will be considered in the next budget. However, in regard to the drains, these are on private property and the respective owners will be contacted to ensure these are cleaned.

Question: The notices sent out for the rubbish collection stipulates that the bins should be placed 1m away from the kerb and most bins are being placed on the footpaths. Why cannot this be 5m away so that footpaths are not being blocked off with these bins.

Response: The Mayor advised Council will consider amending this notice to state that the bins should not be placed on the footpaths.

Mr N Towle – 6 Wyee Place, Armadale

Question: Why is it that the standard of the islands for Eighth Road are totally different to those on Forrest Road. The islands on Forrest Road have a variety of plants while those on Eighth Road are totally bare, except for wood chippings.

Response: The Mayor advised that different standards are maintained for those islands on major entry roads into the City and another standard maintained for islands on suburban roads. Council could consider standardizing the design for such traffic calming devices within the suburbs.

Question: With regard to the water pipeline on Armadale Road – can Council consider asking the Armadale Redevelopment Authority to undertake this project?

Response: The Mayor advised that this project does not fall within the ambit of the Armadale Redevelopment Authority (ARA). However, there have been discussions on it during a Board meeting. Water Corporation quoted \$3M to place the pipeline underground and will not consider putting a bund over it due to the potential of rusting. At this stage there are no proactive ideas other than perhaps inviting high quality urban art on it and there appears to be no other reasonable financial option available to Council.

Mr D Wilson – Little John Road, Armadale

Question: It was reported in the press that there had been funds allocated at some stage to close Little John Road off at Railway Avenue. However, it is now understood that these funds have been diverted to another project and there are options being looked at for traffic calming devices in Little John Road to address the problem of speeding cars in the area. Residents were also advised that the police were going to take an interest in the area and this has not happened. What is the expected date of commencement of the roundabout proposed in Little John Road and Friar Road?

Response: The Mayor advised that there were funds on a Draft Budget to close Little John Road but during discussions on the Budget that was not considered the ultimate answer. Further work would be done when Railway Avenue intersection with Armadale Road was changed in the future. The project was put forward for black spot funding but was not successful. In the meantime, officers have been looking at the effective ways of calming traffic in the street and it is one project that will be considered during the next discussion on allocating LATM (local area traffic management) funds. A detailed response will be forwarded regarding progress on this project.

Question: A Homeswest development has been approved on this street and this will generate more traffic so there is a need for some early action.

Response: The Mayor advised that there are other intersections and streets that are experiencing similar problems and Council is attempting to logically approach these in some order of priority. The ward members have noted the comments and will take up the matter with officers.

Mr N Towle, 6 Wyee Place, Armadale

Question: A survey was recently sent out about the renaming of localities in the Armadale area – were the results of that made available to ratepayers. There was press coverage about Mt Richon but nothing reported on the other proposed name changes.

Response: The Mayor advised that there is a Council resolution that all residents within the affected area are to be advised in writing of the outcome. Considering the number of residents involved this is a massive task and letters will be forwarded shortly. However, for ready information, recommendations being forwarded to the Geographic Names Committee are as follows:-

- the area proposed as Mt Richon was approved;
 - the piece of Armadale to be added to Mt Nasura was not supported and this will remain in Armadale;
 - the area shown on the map proposed as “Seville Grove” was approved; and
 - the area proposed as “Neerigen Brook” was not supported and this area
-

will remain part of Armadale.

Question: What was the cost of the audit report this year? Will it be the same audit firm that will be doing the report for the current financial year and what was the outcome of Council deliberations regarding going to tender for the audit requirements for the Council.

Response: A Committee dealt with a tender for the auditor for the next financial year and that report will be available for public information tomorrow (Friday) when Council agendas are publicized. The report states that an audit contract be let for a further 3 years and has been awarded to the company with the lowest quote and which has a good track record with local government.

The Executive Director Corporate Services advised that the amount paid for the 2001/2002 financial audit was \$14,700.

Question: Can we have a general update on cinemas in Armadale and Kelmscott.

Response: There is a lot of frustration on the part of councilors and officers that it has not been possible to have a proposal for cinemas come to fruition. The company that had lodged the lowest tender to provide cinemas of the standard Council is expecting, in the centre of Armadale, has now asked Council for an undertaking that in effect will be an insurance policy for 20 years. The tender document indicated that Council is prepared to support the proposal over a five year period. As such this company no longer conformed with the tender and Council had to conclude discussions with them. Discussions have now commenced with the Grand Cinema group which was the second company in the tender process and it is understood that Council will be in receipt of a firm proposal by the end of next week for further analysis and discussion.

With regard to Kelmscott, a formal proposal has been received by Council for cinemas and Council is of the view that there is a possibility for a 2 screen complex in the area proposed to meet that niche market. However, as the proposal comes under the parameters of the WA Planning Commission's Strategic Centre's policy, the Commission will be making a decision on this application. Anecdotally, it has been advised that there is another landowner in Kelmscott who is proposing an 8-cinema complex and this was made public during the enquiry by design process held recently, however no formal approach to Council has been made.

Question: Was the cinema operator in Pioneer Village prosecuted in regard to the noise problem?

Response: The Mayor advised that he understood that the problem had been resolved.

Mr D Cox – Sixth Road, Armadale

Question: With regard to line of sight on Sixth and Forrest Roads there are rubbish bins with advertising material on it which are sometimes moved closer to the kerb.

Response: The Mayor advised that from time to time problems are encountered when these rubbish bins are moved from its original site. He assured Mr Cox that this particular site will be investigated.

Question: The roundabouts on Seventh Road at the intersection with Armadale Road and Gribble Avenue – the vegetation is too dense and high and blocks the sight of motorists.

Response: The Mayor advised that as explained earlier during the meeting there is a standard that Council is required to maintain. However, the particular sites will be investigated with a view to improving sightlines.

The Mayor also advised Mr Cox that these issues could be brought to the attention of Council at any time. He also suggested that discussion could be held with the ward councilors following the meeting and they would be happy to take up such issues on his behalf.

I Copping – 3 Wyee Place, Armadale

Question: Had an incident where a Council tree fell over on the verge next door and damaged the fence. A written complaint is still pending with Council. Would like to know what is Council policy on this.

Response: The Mayor advised that the matter will be taken up with Council's insurance officer and a response forwarded in due course.

Mr T Holton

MOVED a vote of thanks to Mr John Adderley as this is the last AGM that he will be attending as Executive Director Development Services. Mr Adderley's amazing record of 29 years with the City and what he has achieved for Armadale from the small rural hamlet to what it is today deserves acknowledgement. Mr Adderley's contribution and support to Council and staff is appreciated.

Seconded Mr Clay

CARRIED

The Mayor thanked Mr Holton for his kind comments. The Mayor introduced the two new Directors to the meeting, firstly Mr Ian Macrae who replaces John Adderley as Executive Director Development Services and Mr Carl Askew the new Director for Community Services.

Mr T Holton

Moved a vote of thanks to Councillors and Council staff for the achievements of the last year and the hard work that has gone into bringing about that achievement.

Seconded Mr Clay

CARRIED

MEETING DECLARED CLOSED AT 8.15 PM

MINUTES CONFIRMED THIS 2nd DAY OF DECEMBER 2002

MAYOR
